

FIND THAT COLLEGE PLACE
PAGES 22, 23

PASSPORT TO EUROPE
SAVE 25% AT RELAIS & CHATEAUX HOTELS

THE DODI CHEQUE THAT BOUNCED
PAGE 3

STEVE McMANAFAN
The truth about me and Barcelona
PAGE 45

THE TIMES FOR ONLY 10P EVERY MONDAY

PLUS: WEEKEND, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS, CAR 97 AND THE DIRECTORY, THE BEST 7-DAY TV, RADIO AND WEBSITES ON GUIDE

Late rush for last fee-free courses

Students jam lines in panic for places

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

UNIVERSITIES reported an unprecedented scramble for the last free higher education places yesterday, as anxious students snapped up a record number of vacancies within 24 hours of A-level results being published.

Admissions tutors said panic-stricken applicants were jamming telephone lines or appearing in person on campus, fearful that next year's introduction of fees would heighten competition this year. Two-thirds of the expected 310,000 vacancies had been filled by yesterday morning.

With late applications 40 per cent up, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) said that up to 30,000 more people than usual could compete for places in clearing. Tony Higgins, the chief executive, said: "The early signs suggested greater pressure on places."

Despite ministers' concession on fees for gap-year students starting next year, more applicants are chasing fewer university places this summer. Thousands of mature students have brought forward their plans to start courses to beat the new charges, while others are expected to enter clearing rather than retake A levels. By early yesterday, Ucas had confirmed 211,575 university places, compared to 177,019 at the same stage last year.

Desperate applicants were

INSIDE
Simon Jenkins... 18
Leading article... 19
Course vacancies... 22, 23

using every manner of approach to win a place yesterday. Many universities introduced e-mail inquiry forms to ease the pressure on their telephone hotlines, and the website introduced by Ucas this summer received 80,000 visits in a day.

At Leeds University, one girl drove from London with her father only to be told that there were no places on the English course. Several others turned up at the dental school, which had no places in clearing.

Gillian Healy, the admissions officer, said: "It is heart-breaking, but they are actually coming up and knocking on closed doors. We have even had a call from a student on holiday in Nepal trying to get a place."

Manchester Metropolitan University took 50,000 telephone inquiries in the first 12 hours after A-level results were published. Carol Youton, a university spokeswoman, said: "Once the results were out, there was a feeling of panic among many students."

The university had taken 20 per cent more calls for science and engineering courses — the

most difficult to fill — than at the same point last year. Ms Youton said admissions officers had been pleasantly surprised by the calibre of applicants. Students appeared to be acting decisively out of fear of extra competition in advance of fees.

Andrew Hindmarsh, the head of admissions at Sheffield University, said courses were filling up much more quickly than in previous years. For the first time, all vacancies in mathematics were taken in the first two days of clearing, and only a limited number of places were left in physics and some branches of engineering.

The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology had only 30 places left yesterday. Many universities are remaining open over the weekend to reassure worried applicants and ensure that they have the pick of the remaining students.

Parents and students worried over losing money year-by-year in the Government's plans to phase out maintenance grants were yesterday offered reassurances by the Department for Education and Employment. A spokeswoman said that all students starting this October, as well as the 19,000 "gap year" students who applied this year, will continue to receive grants at the same level.



Cernuschi arriving at court yesterday. She told police she acted in a fit of temper.

Stockbroker jailed for road rage assault on cyclist

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND KATIE KNIGHT

A WOMAN stockbroker who exploded with road rage and ran down a cyclist for clipping the wing mirror of her car was jailed for five months yesterday.

Frances Cernuschi, 47, who swerved into medical student Alexander Wade's bicycle to teach him a lesson for scratching her Rover saloon, also had the vehicle confiscated.

Judge Peter Fingert told her at Southwark Crown Court, London: "It was a deliberate assault by you, using your car as a weapon on an innocent road user."

Cernuschi, dressed in a bright blue skirt and jacket suit, who earns £60,000 a year at the London stockbrokers Charles Stanley, looked shocked as she was led to the cells. Her husband gasped with surprise.

Joe Cernuschi, 60, a retired BT engineer, said later at the couple's home in Tooting, south London: "I don't want to talk about it. It's disgusting." The couple, married for 24 years, have no children. Friends say she has been under strain at work and from caring for her husband, who is in poor health.

Mr Wade, 21, who received cuts and bruises, was knocked from his bicycle in Kennington Road, south-east London, and just missed being hit by the car. His assailant, who was ordered to pay him £400 compensation and disqualified from driving for four years, sped off but was pursued by a motorcyclist, who alerted police. Cernuschi admitted dangerous driving.



Wade: cut and bruised after clipping mirror

common assault and criminal damage as she drove to work on January 22.

Anne Darlow, prosecuting, said: "The stick went pulled up at a set of red traffic lights at the same time Mr Wade's bike passed her car, overtaking her on the nearside. He clipped her wing mirror, causing a scratch. The defendant sounded her horn and Mr Wade mouthed the word 'Sorry' to her."

But as the cyclist moved forward when the lights changed, Cernuschi swerved into the back of his bicycle and he was flung into the road. "She then drove over his rear wheel, narrowly missing Mr Wade's legs."

Cernuschi told police she had acted in a flash of temper. Roger Offenbach, defending, said she bitterly regretted her actions.

Man on Dillon murder charge

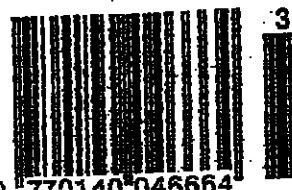
A 26-year-old man was last night charged with the murder of schoolboy Dillon Hull in an apparent drugs-related shooting in Bolton last week.

Dillon, 5, was gunned down as he went to a shop with his stepfather John Bates, 28, near the family's home.

Greater Manchester police said the man, who is from Bolton, would appear before magistrates in the town today charged with the boy's murder and the attempted murder of Mr Bates, who was shot in the abdomen.

WEATHER	24
CROSSWORD	24
COURT & SOCIAL	20
LETTERS	19, 35
OBITUARIES	21
SIMON JENKINS	18
BUSINESS NEWS	25-28
WEEKEND MONEY	29-37
SPORT	38-48
WEEKEND	
GARDENING	44
PROPERTY	8, 10
TRAVEL	15-22

Buying The Times overseas:
Australia \$25.50, Belgium 9.95, 11.00, Canada \$25.00, Denmark 18.00, Finland 17.00, France 17.00, Germany 17.00, Greece 17.00, Hong Kong 17.00, Italy 17.00, Japan 17.00, Korea 17.00, Luxembourg 17.00, Malaysia 17.00, Mexico 17.00, Netherlands 17.00, New Zealand 17.00, Norway 17.00, Portugal 17.00, Singapore 17.00, Spain 17.00, Sweden 17.00, Switzerland 17.00, Taiwan 17.00, Thailand 17.00, USA \$25.00, Venezuela 17.00.



Pensioners dig up coins buried to beat the Norman Conquest

By MARK HENDERSON

TWO pensioners exploring a Sussex field with metal detectors have unearthed a hoard of Anglo-Saxon silver coins thought to have been buried by a panicking merchant before the Battle of Hastings.

Bert Douch, 68, and Phil Collins, 67, both from Hastings, last weekend found 375 silver pennies from the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-66). They made their find on a farm on the outskirts of the town and less than four miles from the spot where William the Conqueror defeated Harold II.

The coins, which were buried in a terracotta pot, are thought to be the most significant find of late Anglo-Saxon currency this century. Dr Gareth Williams, curator of early medieval coins at the British Museum, said yesterday: "Coinage minted by Edward the Confessor was still the dominant currency during the brief reign of Harold II, and the way it was buried suggests a response to a crisis."

"There were only two crises that would fit the bill: the rebellion against Edward by Harold's father, Earl Godwin, in 1050-51, and the Battle of Hastings in 1066."

David Bates, Professor of Medieval History at Glasgow University and the biographer of William the Conqueror, said the battle almost certainly led to the burial of the coins. "My instinct says 1066, as Godwin's rebellion did not touch the Hastings area in the same way," he said.

"There was absolute panic and pandemonium in Sussex when William landed and ravaged the countryside to try to provoke Harold into battle as soon as possible."

"Any merchant with any nous would have done this. It's a classic response to would-be pillagers — bury your treasure and lock up your daughters."

Professor Bates and Dr Williams said the presence of any coins minted during Harold's reign, which lasted only a few months in 1066, would prove the circumstances of the burial. The coins already cleaned and examined are from the 1040s and early 1050s.

Dr Williams said the presence of "clipped" coins (coins which have had their edges pared) and coins from several different mints in the hoard indicated that it was the property of a merchant, rather

than a nobleman's private treasure or money minted to pay an army. Hastings was a medium-sized town of about 1,500 in the mid-11th century, with its own market and mint.

Mr Douch and Mr Collins could make anything between £4,000 and £200,000 from the find, which they will share with the owner of the farm where it was discovered.

The law of treasure trove deems hidden treasure that is more than 50 per cent gold or silver to be the property of the Crown. A Treasury committee of experts sets a level of compensation for the finder and the landowner based on market prices for the objects discovered.

NEIL BENNETT



Minister named in olives-for-peasants inquiry

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A MINISTER charged with modernising the nation's finances faces an unexpected Parliamentary challenge to the feudal bartering system he deploys to pay peasant labourers at his Tuscany estate.

Tory MPs, keen to cause some midsummer mischief, have asked the Commons to investigate the medieval payment system used by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, at his Tuscany holiday home. Though

hardly in the cash-for-questions league, Mr Robinson definitely falls into the olives-for-peasants category.

He is being reported to the Commons watchdog for failing to declare in the MPs register of interests the luxury home, which he loaned to Tony Blair this summer for the second year running, and where the labourers are paid in olives in return for tending the groves.

The register of MPs interests says that second homes need not be registered unless they are regularly let for a substantial rent.

Mr Robinson, publisher of the *New Statesman*, who has five homes, is facing questions from MPs over the land at the imposing £3 million neo-classical house at San Gimignano.

A spokesman for Mr Robinson said that the minister had behaved within the spirit of the rules.

"Some of the land at Tuscany is worked. There is an olive grove. But people who work the land take it [the olives] in exchange for keeping the land tended. There is also grazing land which they can use in return for their labour. There is little or no

income generated for Mr Robinson with the exception of a couple of flagons of olive oil. He fits between the houses, which are not let, so the position is clear."

Last night the Tories seized on the unusual system of bartering to try to embarrass a rising star of the Government. Nigel Evans, the MP for Ribbles Valley, said: "What is the minimum wage in olives? This is a grey area. Which one of the properties is a second home and which one the fifth? I am referring it to Commons standards committee."

Scots MP is facing suspension

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE Labour MP Tommy Graham is expected to be suspended by the party after describing Gordon McMaster, the MP who killed himself, as a drunkard.

Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, is understood to be recommending the action in a report, ordered by the Prime Minister, into the suicide.

Suspending Mr Graham for his outburst would give the appearance of tough action but would fail to satisfy the clamour for Labour to widen its investigation to include alleged links between the party and Paisley drugs barons.

Mr Graham, MP for Renfrewshire West, was named on the suicide note left by Mr McMaster on the windscreen of his fume-filled car a fortnight ago.

Mr Graham told the Glasgow Evening Times last week: "If the real truth came out the guy had a drink problem."

McMaster inquiry, pages 8, 9

WAKE UP YOUR FRIENDS IN LITTLE SNORING.

GUARANTEED CHEAPER CALL BILLS OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

Right now, Mercury is up to 33% cheaper than BT for national calls. In fact, if you don't save money on your call bill (even if you have PremierLine and Friends & Family), we'll refund double the difference. No, you're not dreaming.

Mercury UK-Call
FreeCall 0500 500 366

Prices and savings correct at 10.04.1997, compared against BT's basic rates for calls of 5 minutes. Savings available for a quarterly fee of £3.75 inc. VAT. Price Payday from apply against BT's basic rates and Account to Mercurys, including line rental and temporary promotional offers. Not available on Calling Card or business packages.

Pitbull takes on mistress of the soundbite

Giles Whittell on two fearsome lawyers who boast a string of high-profile clients



Fields: writes thrillers

THE two lawyers representing Kelly Fisher and Dodi Fayed have fearsome reputations in Hollywood for their skills behind the scenes of high-profile legal cases. Known to his rivals as "The Pitbull", Mr Fayed's lawyer Bertram Fields is famed for keeping celebrity clients out of court by negotiating pre-trial settlements.

Mr Fields, who was educated at Harvard, had a hand in arranging the \$20 million deal reached in 1994 with Evan Chandler, the father of a 13-year-old boy who accused Michael Jackson of molesting him. In his spare time, Mr Fields writes best-

selling thrillers. He has also represented John Travolta, Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman.

Miss Fisher's lawyer, Gloria Allred, 52, is likewise known as a consummate backroom negotiator who is seldom seen in court. She has represented the family of Nicole Brown, OJ Simpson's murdered wife, and has a popular liberal talk show on KABC, a Los Angeles station.

Gloria Allred has built her reputation and a lucrative career telling some of Hollywood's most visible men to stop behaving badly. Her

clients are usually scorned or battered women, unknown to the general public. But with a list of foes including Charlie Sheen, OJ Simpson, Imran Khan and Michael Jackson, she has come to personify the high-risk and often tawdry business of suing Californian celebrities.

The feminist has since acted for Britanny Ashland, a model who was once thrown to the ground and knocked out in a row with the actor Charlie Sheen. In a rare legal coup against a film star, he pleaded no contest to battery

charges and agreed to fines and community service.

Ms Allred, who once reportedly had a backstreet abortion after being raped, has been on television almost constantly in Los Angeles since taking on the cause of Denise Brown, the sister of OJ Simpson's murdered wife.

When Simpson lost his civil trial this year and was forced to dispose of his personal effects, the lawyer said: "The only thing I can see of value is the American football helmet... for any women who may date him in the future." Mistress of

the soundbite, she regularly fends off bitter opponents more used to talk radio's traditionally conservative bent on her show.

The day before announcing Kelly Fisher's lawsuit against Dodi Fayed, she won a court ruling against Imran Khan on behalf of the heiress Sita White, in which the cricketer-turned-politician was named as the legal father of Ms White's four-year-old daughter. "Mr Khan should recognise that no game of politics is more important than his little daughter," Ms Allred declared after the case ended.



Allred: talk show host

Princess flies to Greek holiday in Harrods jet

By GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES AND EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales, left Kensington Palace for a yachting holiday in Greece yesterday, using a Harrods aircraft for the flight to Athens airport.

The Princess boarded the Gulfstream jet, which was dressed in the store's gold and green livery, at Stansted airport with Rosa Monckton, one of her oldest friends. The Princess's choice of transport was being seen last night as an endorsement of her relationship with Dodi Fayed, whose father Mohamed Al Fayed is the owner of the Knightsbridge store.

Her decision to use the Harrods jet came as Mr Fayed, 41, denied claims from a Californian model that he had jilted her. Kelly Fisher, 31, the model who is suing him for breach of contract, was in danger of becoming an object of mirth in America as legal experts questioned the merits of her lawsuit.

Through his publicist, Mr Fayed denied having been engaged to Miss Fisher or buying a house in Malibu in which they would live. He claimed their relationship was merely "one of friendship".

"He did know her and they had seen one another, but according to the best of my knowledge they stopped dat-

ing earlier in the year," Pat Kingsley, the publicist, said after Miss Fisher's tearful appearance at a press conference on Thursday night.

Ms Kingsley said: "He was not engaged to her, he did not promise to marry her. He had considered her to be a friend, who he had gone out with before. Earlier this year, in January or February, their relationship changed from a romantic one to a friendly one. Mr Fayed's attorney is going to answer the lawsuit next week and Mr Fayed will be denying everything that it says."

In a blizzard of flash bulbs, Miss Fisher had displayed a large sapphire and diamond engagement ring, which she said she heir to the Harrods fortune had given her in December 1996.

The publicist stated bluntly: "She was given jewellery and gifts because they were seeing one another, but she was not given an engagement ring."

Mr Fayed, who for several days has been expected to arrive in Los Angeles on a business trip, has reportedly hired Bertram Fields as his attorney. He is renowned in California for defending clients such as Michael Jackson and the Church of Scientology in controversial cases.

Legal experts questioned



Kelly Fisher, suing Dodi Fayed for breach of contract, claiming he jilted her for the Princess

the merits of Miss Fisher's lawsuit against Mr Fayed and hinted that an out-of-court settlement was by far its most likely outcome. "This sounds much more like a publicity stunt than a legitimate lawsuit," Laurie Levenson of the Loyola University Law School said.

Under Californian law Miss Fisher would have to

prove that she had offered legitimate services of commercial value to win a breach of contract lawsuit. Professor Levenson explained. She added: "Her sexual or emotional services won't meet that definition."

Miss Fisher, who has appeared on the front covers of *Elle* and *W*, is demanding legal costs, unspecified dam-

ages and \$440,000 as part of a \$500,000 payment she claims Mr Fayed promised her in return for scaling down her modelling work to spend more time with him.

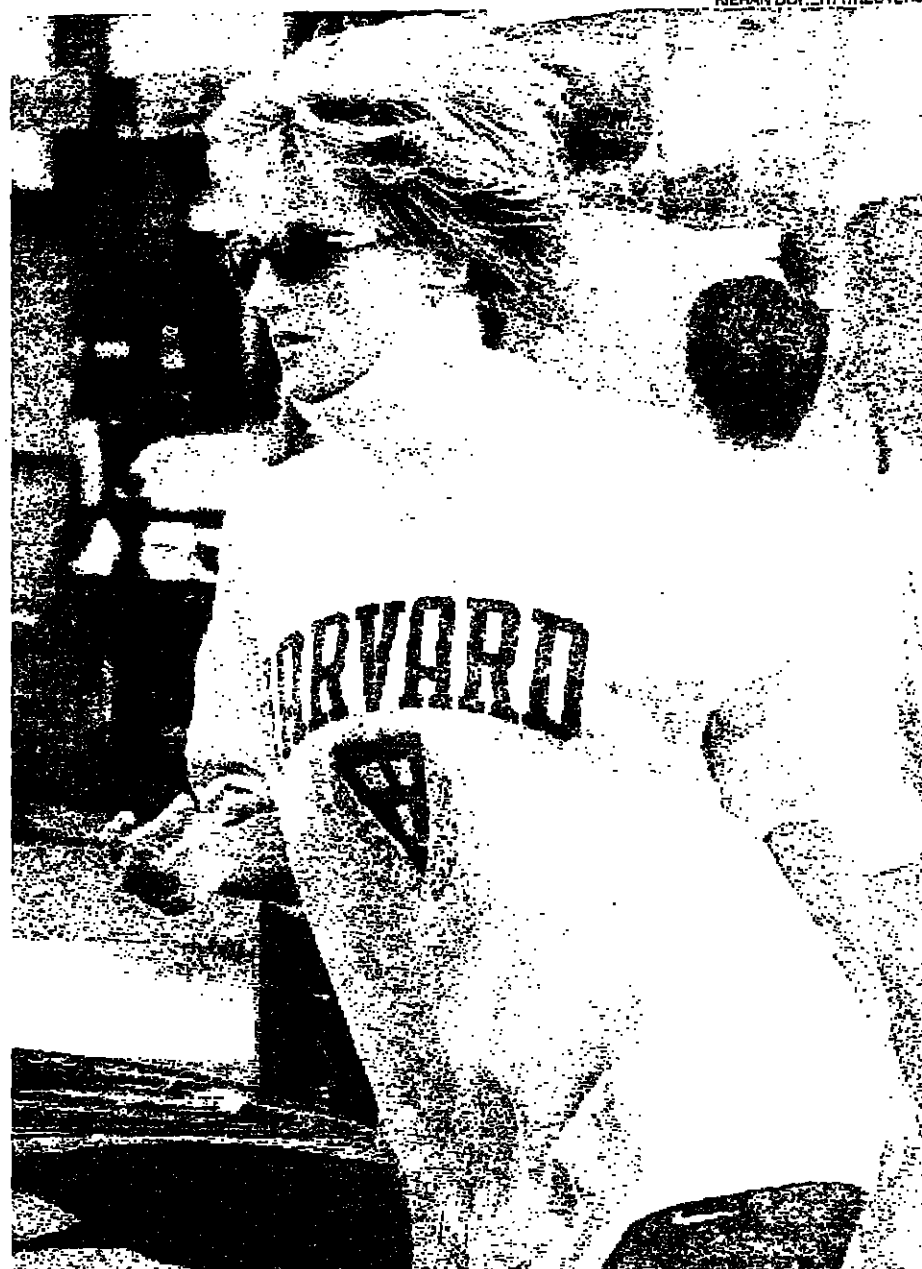
The model said in her lawsuit she had received \$60,000 of that payment, but a cheque for a further \$200,000 was returned by the bank with a note saying that the account had been closed.

Ordinarily delighted by local stories with even a hint of royal intrigue, the US media has greeted the Fisher lawsuit with much rolling of eyes and a little embarrassment.

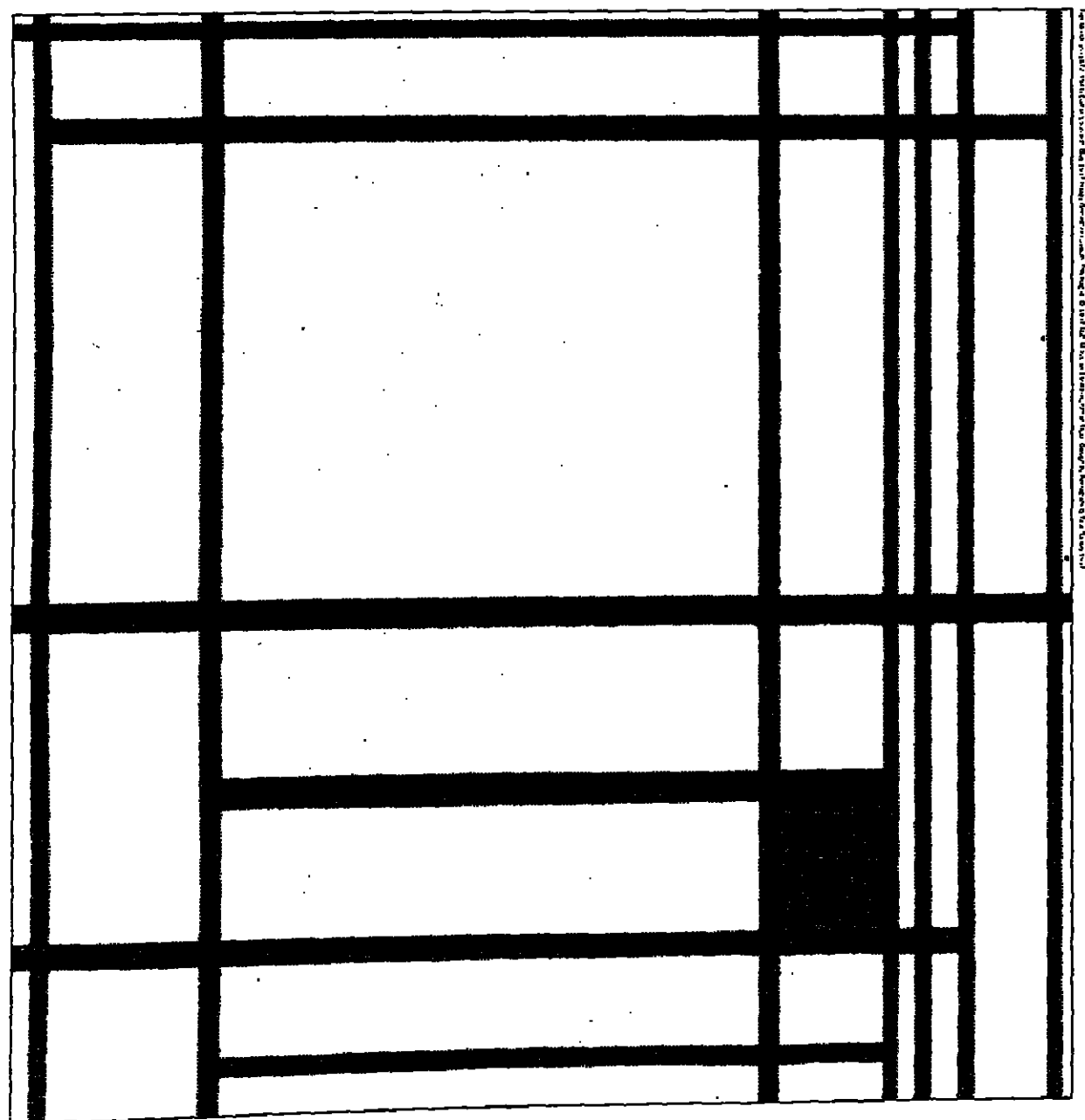
One journalist who attended Thursday's press conference held in Ms Allred's gleamingly white office suite was heard to mutter: "If this is news, then I'm the Queen of England."

The Princess, who dined with Mr Fayed at his Mayfair apartment on Thursday night, made an early morning trip to her gym in Earls Court, west London yesterday.

She is expected to spend several days abroad with Ms Monckton, who is the wife of Dominic Lawson, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*. She is also president of Tiffany's, the Bond Street jewellery emporium. The Princess is godmother to the Lawsons' two-year-old daughter, Domenica, who has Down's syndrome.



The Princess outside her gym in Earls Court yesterday



Mondrian at the Tate

Mondrian: Nature to Abstraction

From the Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague

26 July - 30 November 1997

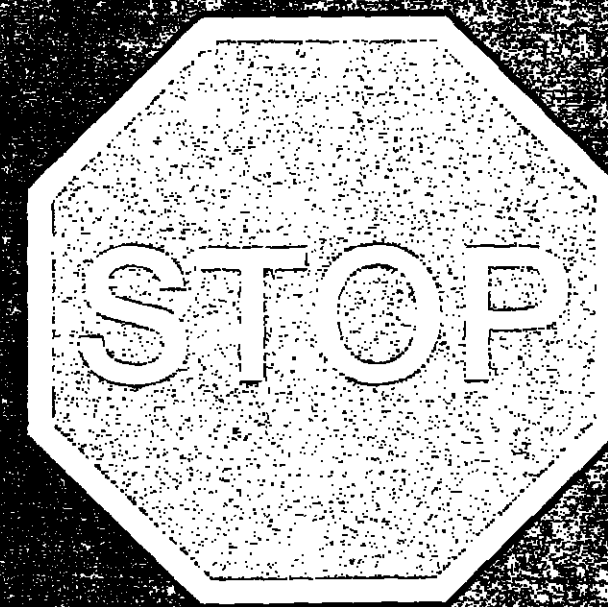
Advance tickets £6.60/£4

from First Call: 0171-420 0000

Sponsored by AT&T

Centenary summer programme in association with THE TIMES

Tate Gallery



paying money into your pension

Take a break if you need to, start again when you can. Put away a lot, a little, different amounts at different times. It's your money and your pension. We don't tie you up with stupid rules or charge you for changing your plans.

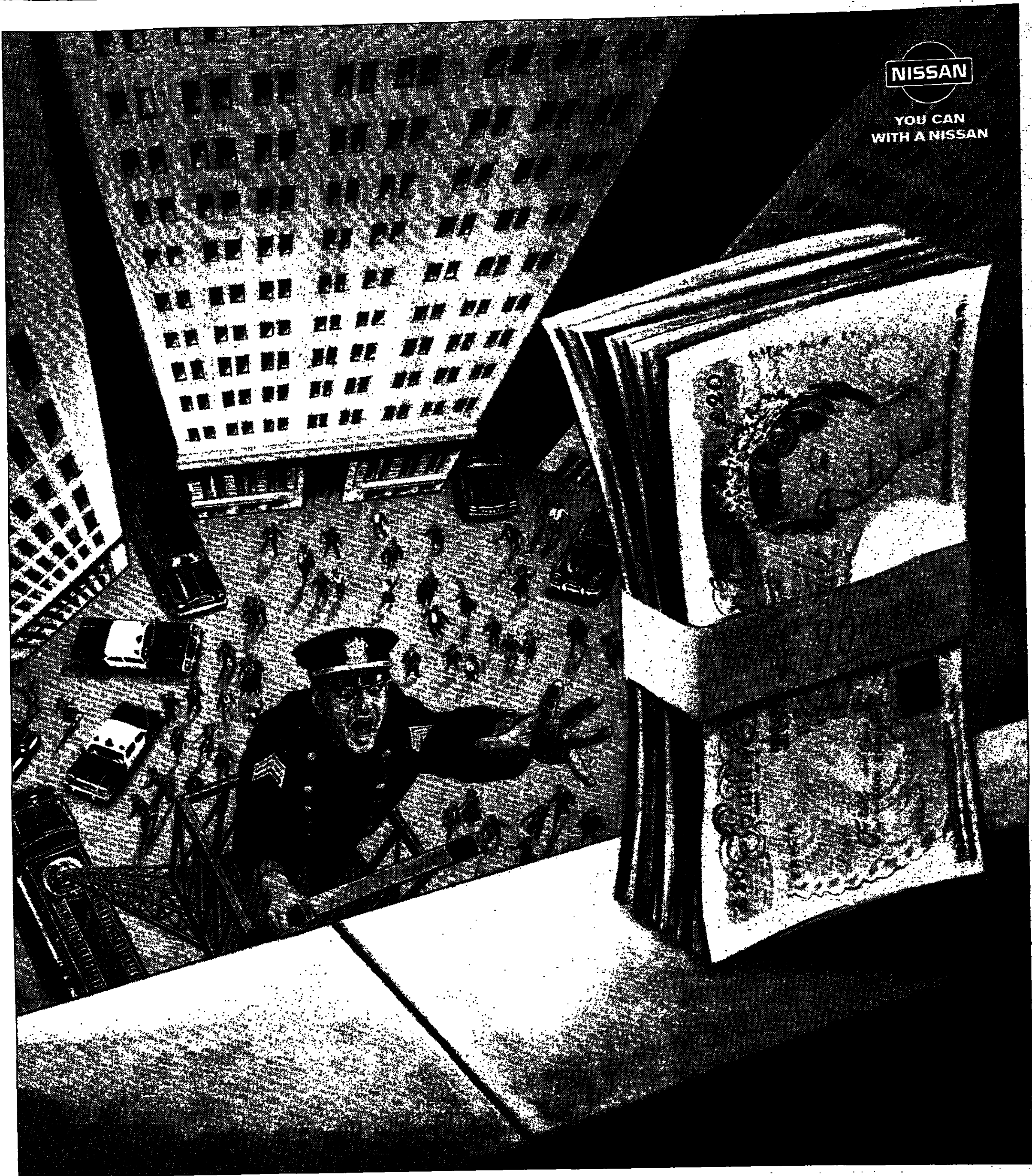
To start today, give us a call.

direct
personal financial services

0345 900 900

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Services Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. The value of your investment will change and the value of the tax benefit depends on how much tax you pay. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.



YOU CAN
WITH A NISSAN

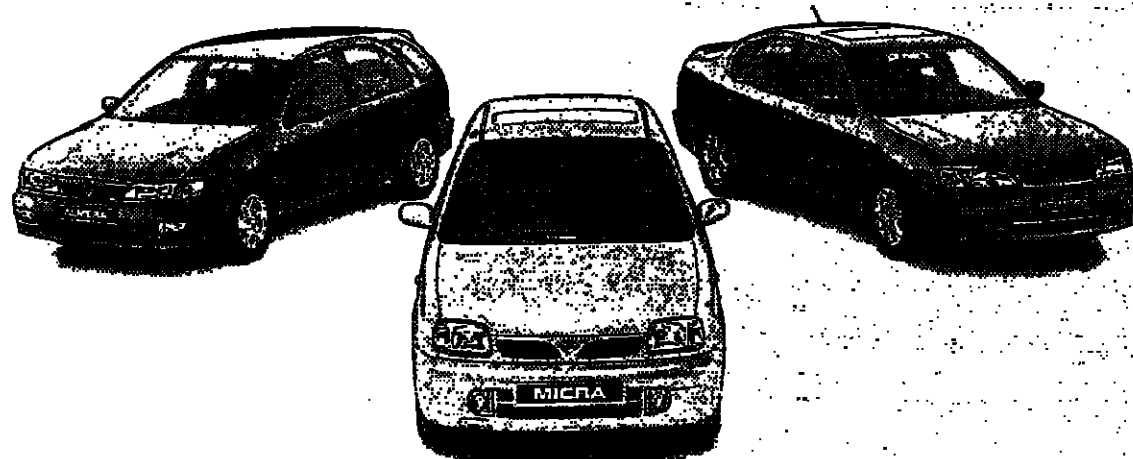
There is another way of saving money.

3 years' warranty

2 years' servicing

1 year's insurance

Buy a new Micra, Almera or Primera (except Muzic special editions) now and you'll get three years' manufacturer's warranty free, two years' all inclusive servicing free and one year's fully comprehensive insurance free. For further details or to contact your local Nissan dealer call 0345 66 99 66.



You could save around £900*.

*The figure of £900 represents an average savings value based on: 1 year's free comprehensive insurance on a Micra insurance group 5i, for a man aged 30, living in a category 3 risk postcode, plus the value of the fully services required up to a maximum of 18,000 miles, and the cost of buying a similar warranty calculated from an average of 3 competitive manufacturers. 321 offer available on Micras, Almeras and Primers (except Muzic) registered as retail sales before 30th September 1997. 3 years' warranty up to a maximum of 60,000 miles. 2 years' servicing up to a maximum of 18,000 miles. 1 year's insurance subject to conditions and underwriter's acceptance. Drivers must be between 17-60 years old. Models subject to availability.

سازمان تبلیغات

German cult fights order to quit

Stephen Farrell watches from a safe distance as evangelicals tussle with National Trust officials trying to evict them from Cornish beach

MEMBERS of the obscure German cult who invaded a Cornish beach to pray to God clashed yesterday with officials who posted notices ordering them to leave.

Bewildered locals looked on as 50 members of the Horst Schaffraek Evangelical movement demonstrated with officials hammering possession orders into the sand at Loe Bar, between Helston and Penzance.

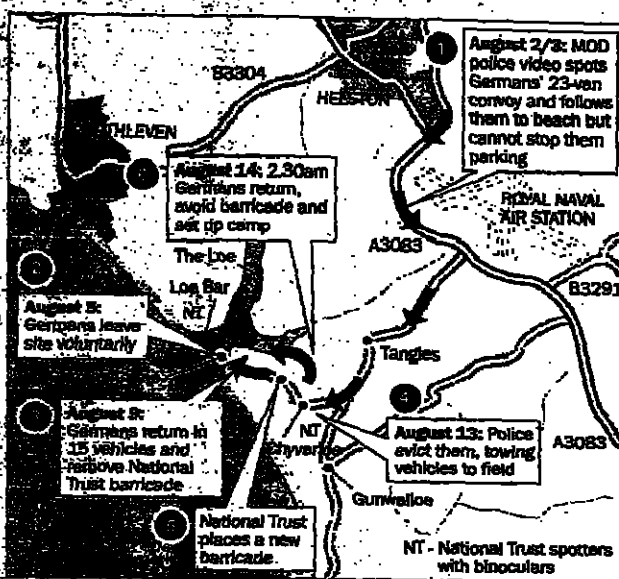
The confrontation came on the third day that the cult's camper vans and cars have occupied the National Trust-owned site, from which all vehicles are banned. The group refused to say when they would leave or if they would comply with an eviction order. They have already been removed twice after dismantling and driving around barricades erected by frustrated National Trust wardens.

Officials arrived at 4pm yesterday to post notices that the trust is to apply for eviction orders at Truro County Court on Monday. Cult members ran after the officials, grabbing the notices and shouting: "We don't want you here. Is God within you?"

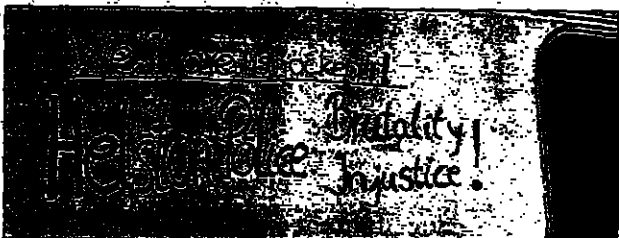
The National Trust claims that the Germans have three times illegally occupied the shingle bar which separates the sea from Loe Pool, reputed to be where Sir Bedivere cast King Arthur's sword Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a breeding ground for the rare sandhill rustic moth.

The evangelicals are led by a grey-bearded figure in white cap and brightly coloured shorts who held prayer and discussion meetings beside Loe Pool at midday. He called himself Horst Schaffraek and was surrounded by acolytes beside his camper van, which was the largest in the group and the most prominently covered in biblical quotations in Greek, French, Spanish and German.

Herr Schaffraek refused to be interviewed, or to give any information about himself or his group. He indicated only that they were displeased with their reception in England.



The battle for the beachhead, above, and the cult members' response to police actions



Herr Schaffraek led the group in midday prayers and discussion, his followers said they chose the beach because they could find nowhere else to park their vans.

Dr Thomas Kopka, 49, from Bielefeld, said they had travelled from different towns in Germany to a peaceful spot to spend two weeks preparing for a meeting of international youth with the Pope in Paris next week.

He had taken two weeks off from his job as a telecommunications worker to bring his wife and two children to Britain, and found Loe Bar ideal until police arrived to evict them with, he claimed, unnecessary force.

"We travel a straight way for justice," he said. "I think this is a good opportunity for English society to think about its laws."

"We could not find another place to put all these cars. Penzance and Newquay are

large towns and it is not good for us to be in the middle of crowds of people. We can't concentrate. We need room."

He said that members travelled to Africa, Russia, China and North America preaching and teaching the Bible, and each had an independent role within the group.

The Evangelical Alliance, which represents 12 denominations, issued a statement dissociating itself from the group yesterday after consulting its German sister organisation. "We have been advised that Horst Schaffraek is not a mainstream Christian organisation and are regarded by some in Germany as a dangerous cult," a spokesman said. "They have a reputation as a group which disrupts large Christian meetings by shouting out messages and unfurling banners and posters in front of the preacher, preventing him from being seen."

Although most of the cult remained vague about their intentions, Frank Riemenschneider, 31, from southern Germany, said they had planned to leave yesterday because many had ferry tickets home, but wanted to stay to find out what would happen to their friends in court.

Their campsite consists of a dozen vans and cars, many daubed with Old Testament verses and placards denouncing the police and National Trust. Robin Howard, National Trust countryside manager for The Lizard, said that the vehicles were damaging Loe Bar's fragile topsoil.

Giles Clotworthy, for the National Trust, said legal action was necessary because the cult had become "progressively more aggressive and intimidating" towards trust employees. "We did not seek confrontation, but we have to be firm, fair and consistent. We cannot allow camping and vehicles on our property."

Last night the camp was down to eight vehicles and 50 evangelicals, who sat in a circle singing and chanting. Police fear it could take until Monday to remove them all.

Neighbouring residents were mystified by the group. John Mills, 46, the chief executive of Cornwall County Council, who lives in the lane leading to the beach, said: "If there were just one small camper van nobody would mind, but this is overkill. It is a very delicate spot."

"We were troubled on our usual morning walk to see a Germanic lady with a bulldozer's shovel emerging from behind the reeds. We all think it's a little inappropriate."

Angela Thomas, landlady of the Halzeophon Inn, said: "People here are quite amused. It all seems very exotic."



A cult member protesting outside Truro Magistrates' Court as five others were brought before the bench. Two were in jail last night for failing to pay court costs

Two sent to jail for failure to pay costs

TWO cult members were taken to jail yesterday for failure to pay their court costs. The two men were given conditional discharges for two years after admitting offences at Loe Bar and were each ordered to pay £54 legal costs.

Because they could not pay immediately John Knuckey, the chairman of Truro magistrates, ordered them to be committed to prison for a maximum of seven days. They will be released as soon as the costs are paid.

A third man, who was jailed with them, paid his costs last night and was freed. A fourth defendant, a 67-year-old woman, was also given a two-year conditional discharge, but was not ordered to pay costs.

A fifth male defendant was remanded in custody after denying trespass. He will appear in court next week.

The four defendants sentenced yesterday were told by Mr Knuckey: "You seem to have a very low regard for the law of this country. Whatever the law is you have to respect it. If we go to Germany, we must respect German law. We expect German people to respect English law."

At the start of the 24-hour hearing two female members of the group sitting at the back of the court were removed by court officials after they refused to stand for the magistrates.

The four male defendants began singing in the dock when they were brought in and were ordered to stop by the court clerk.



Cult members studying the National Trust's possession orders on the beach. Several left yesterday but about 50 spent last night singing and chanting in a circle

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE NAKED TRUTH...



John Wells and Peter Cook

His absolute devotion to his mother, his wives and his children pulled against a boundless delight in sex. I was lucky enough to visit strip clubs with him...

John Wells reviews a new book on Peter Cook. The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IN THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Shiny new stars eclipse the rock dinosaurs

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AGEING rockers can no longer compete with the new generation of pop stars and are being squeezed out of the market.

Veterans such as Sting, Phil Collins and Dire Straits are losing out to the explosion of new twentysomething talents such as Oasis, Cast, Kula Shaker and the Spice Girls in terms of album sales, according to research.

The 400-page study, by the consultancy Media Research Publishing, found that artists with careers lasting five years or more were responsible for only 29 per cent of Britain's best selling new albums between 1994 and 1996. That compared with 59 per cent in the previous three years.

Collins, Sting, Def Leppard and the Pet Shop Boys are named as acts who last year released albums that failed to match the sales of previous albums. In extreme cases the trend may pose financial problems for record labels that have long-term contracts with stars losing their bankability.

Robert Sandall, head of press at Virgin Records and a spokesman for the Spice Girls, said even relatively trendy bands such as U2 and The Cure, the cult Eighties indie band, had also been affected. "All these bands have taken a knock," he said. "It has been established with the industry for the last

year. Phil Collins was a particularly salutary lesson, although his tour is doing quite well."

"Any band that has had a career that has lasted more than a decade is looking a bit ropey. The Cure have been hit hard. Their last album, *Wild Mood Swings*, did very badly. No one really knew why, because it sounded like any other Cure album. I would say U2 are a borderline case."

One possible explanation is that older stars are failing to attract young fans like they used to. Radio 1 now gives over less air time to established stars and more to experimental music.

In 1992 only four of the 50 best-selling albums came from new artists. In 1996 there were ten.

Andy Lown, managing director of Tower Records in Britain, said: "Many of these rock dinosaurs don't realise that they have little to say to the young audience."

But a spokeswoman at East West, which represents Phil Collins, said: "You have got to look at a career over a whole lifetime. Phil Collins's career has spanned many, many years. We could be having this conversation in ten years and he will still be selling records."

A spokeswoman for Sting said: "As far as we are concerned Sting is a healthy, platinum-selling artist."

Run a second Orange phone for less than £15 per month.

With Orange Talkshare Plus you can add a new phone to an existing Talk Plan for only £14.69 per month.

- one Talk Plan with 60 or 200 minutes to share each month
- free connection for additional phones
- share one monthly bill, with separately itemised calls
- low cost calls between Orange phones, only 12p per minute on Talk 60

Talk Plan	Shared talk time included each month	Monthly charge for single phone	Number of phones allowed on a Talk Plan	Monthly charge per additional phone
Talk 60	60 mins	£29.38	1-2	£14.69
Talk 200	200 mins	£58.75	1-3	£14.69

All prices quoted include VAT

Find out more about Talkshare Plus at:

Dixons

Ask in store for details. Call 0181 200 0200 for your nearest store.

orange

Show's over for agent who failed to pay TV stars

BY A STAFF REPORTER

CAROLINE QUENTIN, one of the stars of *Men Behaving Badly*, wrote off more than £100,000 last night after her former agent was banned from working in show-business for ten years.

The maximum prohibition was imposed on Sharon Hamper at an industrial tribunal in Southampton at the end of a case brought by the Department of Trade and Industry's employment agency standards office. Ms Quentin was one of several celebrities including Leslie Ash, who also stars in *Men Behaving Badly*, Craig McLachlan, the actor, who appeared in *Bugs*, and Shaw Taylor, television presenter of *Police Five* — left badly out of pocket when Ms Hamper's company went into liquidation last year, owing more than £480,000. The four celebrities were owed about £300,000, the rest of the debts being due to other creditors.

Quentin, 39, recently described the amount she is owed as being "really most of the money I have earned in my life". In a statement, her new agent said: "In view of her former agent's insolvency there is no point in throwing more good money after bad."



Quentin owed most of her career earnings

Claims have been made on her behalf to the liquidator of the company and Sharon Hamper's trustee in bankruptcy.

The tribunal made two orders against Sharon Geraldine Toms-Smith, known as Sharon Hamper, and against her company Sharon Hamper Management Limited, formerly based in Great Queen Street, central London. The orders prohibit either Ms Hamper or the company from being concerned with any employment business for ten years, with immediate effect. Equity, the actors' union,

said there were dozens of unscrupulous agents operating in the country and called for action to control the unregulated industry. It is estimated that 4,000 showbusiness agents work in Britain, the majority of them honest. But many had little or no regard for their clients' welfare, a union spokesman said.

"We recognised from an early point that the lost money would not be recovered — that applies to all the people involved with Sharon Hamper Management," the spokesman said. "But it is very positive to know that she will not be able to practise in any capacity."

"We have been lobbying for revisions to the Agencies Act 1973 and have now entered into consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry to tighten up the Act. We knew for four years before this case that Sharon Hamper was in financial problems. She had a very strong client base but her ethics were rather less than sufficient."

The department had argued that Ms Hamper was unsuited to running an employment business on the grounds that she was directly responsible for the agency's payment sys-



Sharon Hamper has been prohibited from working as an agent for maximum time

tems, and failed to pay clients their money. Evidence was also presented that the agency's client account was operated improperly, and that there was widespread withholding of money owed to actors.

The prohibition application was brought under the terms of the Employment Agencies Act 1973. The power to prohibit individuals from carrying on in business as employment agencies replaced the power to repeal the licences that were issued to such businesses.

Ian McCartney, Department of Trade and Industry minister for competitiveness, said he was delighted by the judgment. "These proceedings serve notice that the DTI will not hesitate to act against agencies behaving badly," he said. "This Government will not tolerate exploitation of people at work."

Hypnosis 'can induce false memories'

Study sheds new light on 'recalled' sex abuse, reports Nigel Hawkes

PLANTING false memories under hypnosis is relatively easy, even when the hypnotised person has been warned of the danger, American experiments have shown.

The results throw new light on "false memory syndrome", in which people are helped by therapists to "remember" events from the past that never happened. Several cases of alleged sexual abuse have been thrown out after courts were convinced that the memories were false.

Dr Joseph Green, of Ohio State University, and Professor Steven Jay Lynn, of the State University of New York, carried out the study in which 48 undergraduates were hypnotised. Before the session began, each was asked to select a night from the previous week when they were quite certain they had slept well.

In addition, 32 of the 48 were warned that hypnosis cannot make people remember things they would not ordinarily remember, and were read information about the imperfections of memory from guidelines published by the American Society of Clinical Hyp-

American Psychological Association in Chicago.

"There's a cultural expectation that hypnosis will lead to more accurate and earlier memories, but that's not true," he said. "Hypnosis can be helpful for some people, but it is subject to the same restrictions and pitfalls of any other memory-retrieval method."

The evidence was, he said, that warnings did not prevent people developing false memories under hypnosis. "The results suggest that warnings are helpful to some extent in discouraging pseudo-memories. But these limited warnings did not prevent pseudo-memories and did not reduce the confidence subjects had in those memories."

In a separate study presented at the same meeting, he showed that people who believe themselves to be hypnotised claim to remember things from much earlier in childhood. Dr Green said: "Many people believe that hypnosis can lead to earlier memories, although that has never been shown to be true. People's expectations about what hypnosis can do will influence what they re-

People's expectation of what hypnosis can do will influence what they recall?

member." The accuracy of memories recovered under therapy has long been a source of argument. In April a report prepared for the British Psychological Society by Dr Bernice Andrews, of Royal Holloway College, London University,

backed the use of therapy, suggesting that accurate memories can be recovered. But her report was criticised as unscientific by the False Memory Society, which represents parents who say they have been wrongly accused of abusing their children.

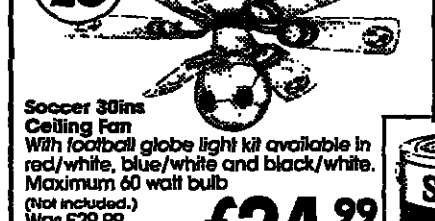
Last December a 44-year-old man was formally accused of sexually abusing a 22-year-old woman after psychological assessments indicated that her memories might be false.

Low, low prices on the things you need NOW

KEY season PRICE



Carolina 42ins Ceiling Fan. Wood grain effect blades with cane inset. Max 3 x 60 watt bulbs (not included). Was £34.90. **£29.99**



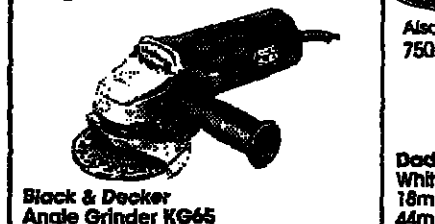
Soccer 30ins Ceiling Fan. With football globe light kit available in red/white, blue/white and black/white. Maximum 60 watt bulb (not included). Was £29.99. **£24.99**



9ins Oscillating Desk Fan D9F. 2 speed. Was £12.79. **£11.49**



Home Surveillance TV Camera. Includes camera, connection system with built-in microphone, connecting directly to your TV or video, 20m cable, power supply adaptor and fixings. **£99.99**



Black & Decker Angle Grinder KG65. 650 watts, 11,000rpm, 115mm disk size and adjustable safety guard. **£39.99**

Cuprinol 5 Year High Performance Woodstain. Available in 5 Colours. 2.5 litres. Was £21.49. **£18.49** each. Also available 750ml. Was \$8.99. **£6.99** each.



Sandtex Textured or Smooth Masonry Paint. Pure Brilliant White. Guaranteed for 15 years. 5 litres. Was \$9.99. **£10.99** each.



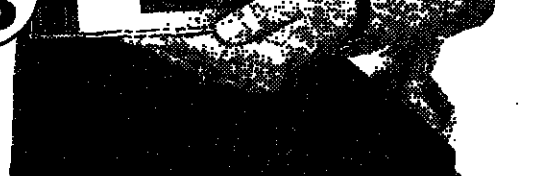
Dulux Weathershield Textured or Smooth Masonry Paint. Pure Brilliant White. Guaranteed for 10 years. 5 litres. **£10.99** each.



Ronseal 5 Year Woodstain. Available in various colours. Gloss or satin finish. 2.5 litre. **£18.49** each. Also available 750ml. **£6.99** each.



Dado Roll White primed MDF. 18mm x 44mm x 2.4m. **£2.99** each. Also available in pack of 4. (Not shown). **£9.99** pack of 4.



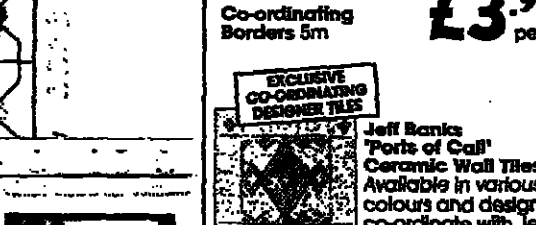
Gainsborough Energy 2000X Electric Shower. 9.5kW. Was \$99. **£88.99**



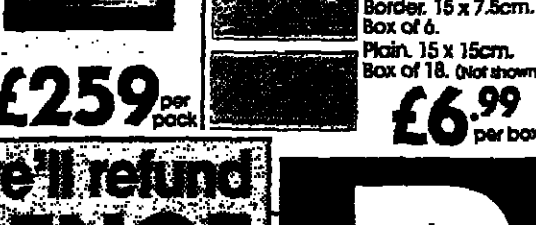
Also Available Gainsborough Style 400X Electric Shower. 8.5kW. (Not shown). **£78.99**



Whirlpool Fan Pack. Includes fan oven 850 801, standard hood B24 830 and gas hob B24 823. Available in white or brown. Was \$299.97. **£259** per pack.



Jeff Banks 'Walls of Gold' Ceramic Wall Tiles. Available in various colours and designs to co-ordinate with Jeff Banks wallcoverings. Inset. 15 x 15cm. Box of 6. **£6.99** per box.



Black & Decker Hedge Master 421. 360 watts, 42cm cutting length. Dual action steel blades. 4.3kg and 12m cable. **£54.50**



"You can brighten up your garden and protect your wood with this woodstain."

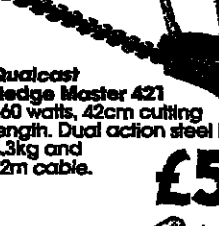
JANET COOK Sales Assistant B&Q ARNOLD



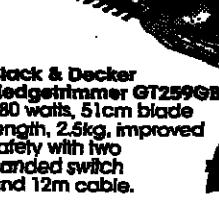
Marley 38 Traditional Roof Felt. 8m x 1m roll. **£6.99**



Aqualseal Felt Adhesive. Adhesive for roofing felt. Black. 5 litres. **£6.99**



Two Tread Step Stool. Lightweight with non-slip plastic feet to protect floors. **£7.99**



Valencia Wallcoverings by Vynura. Available in various designs and colourways. 10m. **£5.49** per roll. **£3.99** per roll.



Black & Decker Hedge Master 421. 360 watts, 42cm cutting length. Dual action steel blades. 4.3kg and 12m cable. **£54.50**



Black & Decker Hedge Master 421. 360 watts, 42cm cutting length. Dual action steel blades. 4.3kg and 12m cable. **£54.50**

Black & Decker Hedge Master 421. 360 watts, 42cm cutting length. Dual action steel blades. 4.3kg and 12m cable. **£54.50**

GREAT VALUE BREAKS

FROM ONLY **£25** PER PERSON PER NIGHT INCLUDING FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST. Available until 31 August 1997.

CHILDREN WELCOME! When sharing a room with 2 adults. Under 6's stay and eat breakfast free. 6-15 year olds: stay free. £5 each per breakfast.

BOOK BY 22ND AUGUST

THE GOLDEN VALLEY - Cheltenham 4★. Surrounded by picturesque Cotswold countryside. An elegant and spacious hotel from which to explore this delightful region. With luxury, leisure complex. **01242 232 691** 3 nights £99

THE RED CAR - Bath. Attractive Georgian hotel in the heart of this historic city. Offer available Monday to Thursday only. **01225 469 151** 2 nights £75, 3 nights £99

THE ROUGEMONT - Exeter 3★. Completely refurbished Victorian hotel close to the centre of this ancient Cathedral City. Ideal base to tour Devon. **01392 254 982** 2 nights £65, 3 nights £90

HOSPITALITY INN - Harrogate 3★. Comfort and convenience in a charming Victorian setting overlooking the Stray. Ideal centre for Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors. **01423 564 601** 2 nights £55, 3 nights £75

HOSPITALITY INN - Portsmouth 3★. Seaford hotel close to the beach, harbour and city centre. **01705 731 281** 2 nights £55, 3 nights £75

THE WILTSHIRE - Swindon 3★. Modern hotel close to main shopping area; ideal touring centre for the Marlborough Downs, Wiltshire and the Cotswolds. **01793 528 282** 2 nights £50, 3 nights £69

Price per adult based on 2 people sharing a room with private bathroom, TV and car hire. All other facilities extra. The price shown only applies to reservations made in advance and is not applicable to party bookings or bookings made on a short notice.

All rates include VAT and are based on a double room with private bathroom, TV and car hire. All other facilities extra. The price shown only applies to reservations made in advance and is not applicable to party bookings or bookings made on a short notice.

Minimum stay 2 nights. All rates are in the Golden Valley. No cash payments. Bookings subject to terms of availability. All dates correct at time of going to press.

© 1997 B&Q. All rights reserved. B&Q is a registered trademark of B&Q plc.

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q. Does not apply to B&Q Homecare or B&Q Direct.

OPENING HOURS. Monday-Saturday. Most stock items. Sunday. Most stock items. (Not all items available in all stores). Please check your local store for opening hours. B&Q is a registered trademark of B&Q plc.

B&Q YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

3201201

AY AUGUST 16 1997
nosis
nduce
lse
ories'
Nigel Hawke
EAT
UE
AKS
MUSIC THAT MEANS SOMETHING.
Music television from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, available on cable and satellite.

Thirty missing women could be 'Lady in the Lake'

Paul Wilkinson on the quest for a victim's identity

DETECTIVES trying to unravel the murder mystery of the 'Lady in the Lake' have been given the names of 30 missing women who fit the description of the body found in Coniston Water this week. Fifteen police forces have contacted the incident room at Ulverston, on the edge of the Lake District, to check their missing person files with the Cumbria detectives. One name suggested by Merseyside Police is that of Helen McCourt, an insurance clerk from St Helens, who vanished in 1988, aged 22. Her body was never found. A man was convicted of her murder. Experts believe that the body recovered on Wednesday by four amateur sub-aqua divers 75 ft down, on the lake floor, could have lain there for more than a quarter of a century. The woman was aged between 20 and 30, white, well-built, and 5ft 1in to 5ft 4in tall, with short brown hair. Her body was in a short, turquoise blue, 1960s-style nylon 'baby doll' nightgown. Yesterday, Miss McCourt's mother Marie, from Billinge, near Wigan, said: 'I hope it is Helen's body, but I have had my hopes raised and then dashed so many times. We have been told that it could be a couple of weeks before the person's identity is known.' Cumbria police are also



checking the file of Carol Park, from Barrow-in-Furness, 15 miles from where the body was found. Mrs Park was reported missing 20 years ago. She was 22 years old. Detective Superintendent Ian Douglas, who is heading a murder squad of 30 officers, said that they were attempting to contact her relatives. Mr Douglas added: 'There has been a tremendous public response, with people coming forward with suggestions and information, which we are assessing now.' He hopes that forensic scientists will be able to obtain a DNA sample from the body. 'It could give us a good lead in telling us who this woman is. If there are any family still alive we could compare it with them. It would be a big help in confirming the identity of this poor person.' Mr Douglas's team has asked forces to submit dental records for comparison with

the lady in the lake. The body will be X-rayed to see if the woman had borne children. Forensic scientists have been helped in their task because decomposition was slowed by the low water temperature at the depth the body was found and because it was kept water-tight in two bin-liners, a canvas bag and a large rucksack or holdall, bound with rope and string. A metal weight had been attached. The bundle was discovered by John Walsh, an engineer from Kendal, who was diving with his companions away from a training area close to the lake shore. They saw it by the light of underwater lanterns, protruding from the smooth bed. At first they thought it might be an outboard motor lost from a pleasure boat. The nightdress is believed to have been made by a Manchester firm which moved to Essex in 1976. The canvas bag and the holdall are being examined for the identity of their manufacturers. 'This is not like a normal murder inquiry where you can go at it full-speed straight away,' said Mr Douglas. 'We have time to plan things out systematically. We are in the hands of the forensic experts to a certain extent. We must wait for their results.'



Lord Dummore, pictured with his wife, tried to save a colleague during fighting in India

Modest VC who wrote himself out of history

By Alan Hamilton

JOURNALISTS covering war zones often take great personal risks and, occasionally, pay for their dedication with their lives. But there is only one known case of a correspondent being awarded the Victoria Cross, and it happened a hundred years ago tomorrow. The nation's highest decoration for valour went to the man from *The Times* for trying to save the life of a colleague from *The Times of India*. The definition of a journalist was perhaps a little looser then than now. Officers on remote battlefronts often supplemented their Army pay by acting as correspondents for newspapers which could not possibly afford to have a staff man at every outpost. In August 1897, on the Northwest Frontier, the tribesmen were engaging in one of their periodic revolts against the British. Representing *The Times* on the expedition to quell the insurrection was a lieutenant in the Guides Cavalry, Alexander Murray, Viscount Fincastle. Reporting for the *Daily Telegraph* was another young officer in need of extra cash, Winston Churchill. During a fierce encounter at Nawa Kill in Upper Swat on August 17,

Lord Fincastle galloped with two officers and five men of the Guides to the rescue of Lieutenant T.R. Greaves, of the Lancashire Fusiliers and *The Times of India*, who was lying on the ground surrounded by enemy swordsmen after being disabled by a bullet. Lord Fincastle had his horse shot from under him, but under intense enemy fire he went forward and managed to lift Lieutenant Greaves on to another horse. Sadly, Lieutenant Greaves was hit again and killed, as was another rescuer, Lieutenant H.L.S. MacLean, who was awarded a posthumous VC. Gentlemen of *The Times* a century ago would never have dreamt of writing about themselves, and Lord Fincastle's despatch to the newspaper made no mention of his own role. It was left to *The Times* correspondent in Simla to supply the full facts: 'General Blood reports that Lord Fincastle, 16th Lancers, behaved with great gallantry at Landikalai.' Lord Fincastle subsequently became the eighth Earl of Dunmore, dying in London aged 90 after further gallantry, including action at the Somme, where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Staff backed after death



Martin Hollis: drowned

STAFF who were supervising a five-year-old boy who drowned during a day-trip were defended yesterday by the head of social services. The body of Martin Hollis was discovered in a lake at Fairlands Valley Park in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, on Thursday evening. Ian White, Hertfordshire County Council's head of social services, said: 'There's no evidence that any of the staff were anything less than conscientious. They gave him a bit of chocolate and wiped his face. They turned

round and he was gone.' Martin, who lived in Letchworth, was on a day out supervised by two workers and a volunteer from the Noel Family Centre in Letchworth, which helps families that have difficulty coping with their children. Martin's father Melvin, 41, said: 'Martin was a lovely and happy little boy. He was loved by everyone who knew him.' Police want to trace a woman and child seen with a boy fitting Martin's description at about 2.30pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man, 25, in court on body parts charge

A man charged with stealing body parts was remanded on bail when he appeared at Hove Magistrates' Court in central London. Niel Lindsay, 25, of Islington, north London, a former educational assistant at the Royal College of Surgeons, is accused of stealing anatomical specimens. He was bailed on condition he does not take employment as an undertaker.

Gas 'killed girl'

Police believe Jessica Downes, 13, whose body was found behind a pub in Oldbury, West Midlands, died after experimenting with butane gas. She had suffered a head injury. Two boys, aged 13 and 14, who were being interviewed, have been released on police bail.

Dirty video

A man whose dog was caught on a security camera fouling a grass verge was taken to Cheltenham Magistrates' Court, fined £120 and ordered to pay £100 costs. Patrick Dare was reported by the owner of the camera, sited on business premises in Chipping Camden.

Penguin deaths

Dublin Zoo is investigating the sudden deaths of all but one of its 12 penguins. Preliminary post-mortem examinations have been inconclusive. They died soon after their enclosure was painted, but sources said painting was a regular occurrence and the same paint was always used.

Lot of dough

Britons spend an average of £32.70 a year on ready-made sandwiches, and £55.20 a year on other chilled foods such as pork pies, according to Datamonitor. One in six sandwiches is bought at a petrol station. The £3.5bn-a-year industry is expected to grow by 5 per cent annually.

PEOPLES

P H O N E

Britain's Biggest Specialist



Free hands-free kit

FREE HANDS-FREE KIT

- Now you can talk and drive with both hands on the steering wheel

TOP BRAND DIGITAL PHONE

- Nokia 1611

INCLUSIVE CALLS

- Up to 50 minutes per month - forever
- per second billing with Vodafone

ONLY **£19.99** (inc VAT)

extensive range of hands-free kits available

to place an order
or for your nearest store
call free 0800 10 11 12

Offer is subject to status, availability and connection to a Vodafone GSM tariff at £35.00 inc VAT on a new number to a new standard airtime contract. The number of inclusive minutes is dependent on the tariff. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offers. Offer ends 31st August 1997.

Chronicle of the death that spells

The suicide of the Paisley MP Gordon McMaster has put the party on the defensive over sleaze in its Scottish strongholds and threatens to overshadow the referendum on devolution, reports **Dominic Kennedy**

When Tommy Graham learnt that his name was on the suicide note of his young Labour colleague Gordon McMaster, he made a prediction: "I'll probably be the big bad ogre."

Mr Graham, the 21-stone MP for Renfrewshire West, is in deep trouble. Affidavits are being sworn saying that he not only called Mr McMaster a "poof", but that he described Irene Adams, MP for Paisley North, as a "bitch".

All the old skeletons have come tumbling from his cupboard. His enemies have revived old claims of vote-rigging which led to two internal Labour inquiries. A murder trial this week threw the spotlight back on a dubious security firm whose directors included Mr Graham's election agent, Harry Revie. Even his purchase of a holiday cottage in the Highlands, which he named "Sunny Govan", has been attacked because he bought it from a council for £12,000 below the asking price.

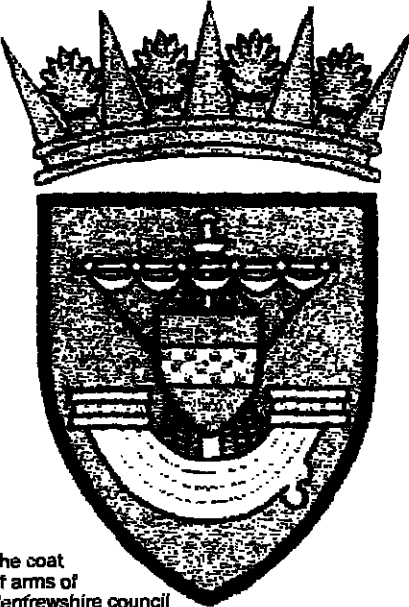
The danger for Tony Blair is that the skeletons of old Labour will come tumbling out too. The prospect of a by-election disaster in Paisley South or a referendum campaign being overshadowed by sleaze must chill his spine. Paisley matters because it may show that the cleansing of new Labour has not reached the one-party heartlands of Scotland.

The troubles for Mr Graham multiplied a fortnight ago when Mr McMaster was found dead in his fume-filled car. A suicide note on the windscreen was addressed to his parents, his brother and sister-in-law, Mrs Adams, Tony Blair and the Chief Whip, Nick Brown. It said: "I hope Don Dixon [Lord Dixon] and Tommy Graham can live with themselves. I would rather be dead with my conscience than alive with theirs."

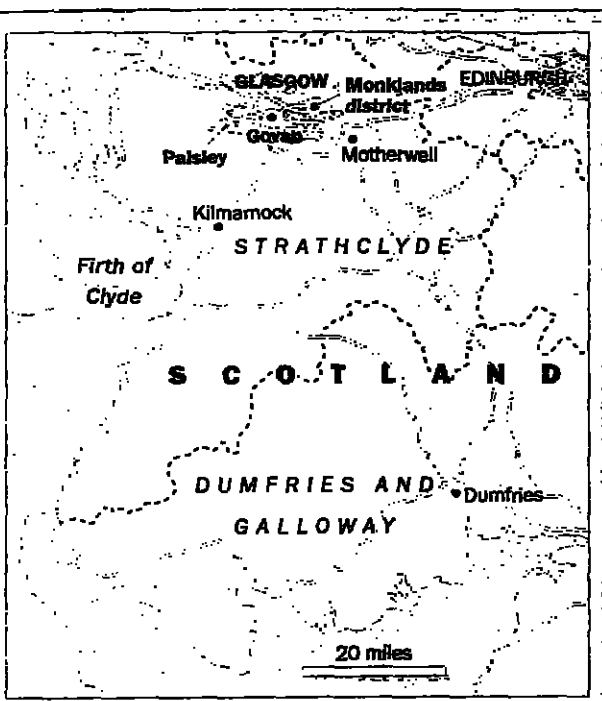
"I expect to go to Heaven, and I don't expect to see them there. But if I do, I hope it's in a dark alley." And he added: "Even after I'm dead they will keep on bad-mouthing me."

Mr McMaster, a 37-year-old bachelor whose mother still cooked for him, was depressed. He said he

A SAGA OF SCANDAL AND CORRUPTION



The coat of arms of Renfrewshire council



□ 1994: Labour Council inquiry into allegations of corruption, sectarianism and nepotism within Monklands council.

□ 1995: Scottish secretary orders inquiry into Monklands. Labour suspends all 15 councillors; internal inquiry clears councillors of main allegations but finds bad practices.

□ 1995: internal Labour inquiry into allegations of a campaign to deselect Paisley North MP Irene Adams by "stuffing" the local party with stooge members in suspension of constituency party.

□ 1996: Labour inquiry into methods used to secure nomination of Tommy Graham for the safe Labour seat of Renfrewshire West exonerates Mr Graham.

□ February 1997: Labour inquiry into allegations by Bob Gould, Labour leader of Glasgow City Council, that he had been offered the votes of fellow councillors

in return for trips abroad. Inquiry ongoing.

□ May 1997: Labour inquiry into allegations of bribery against Mohammad Sarwar, Labour MP for Govan. Inquiry rules that Mr Sarwar has brought the party into disrepute and withdraws privileges. Police inquiry into allegations ongoing.

□ 1997: ongoing Labour inquiry into allegations of smear campaign following suicide of McMaster.

□ 1997: police conducting two inquiries in Paisley, into potential links between Labour members and organised crime and the events surrounding McMaster's death.

□ 1997: police investigation into allegations of housing fraud in Dumfries and Galloway, involving the daughter of a Labour councillor. A council inquiry has uncovered evidence of bullying and bad practice in the housing department of the council.

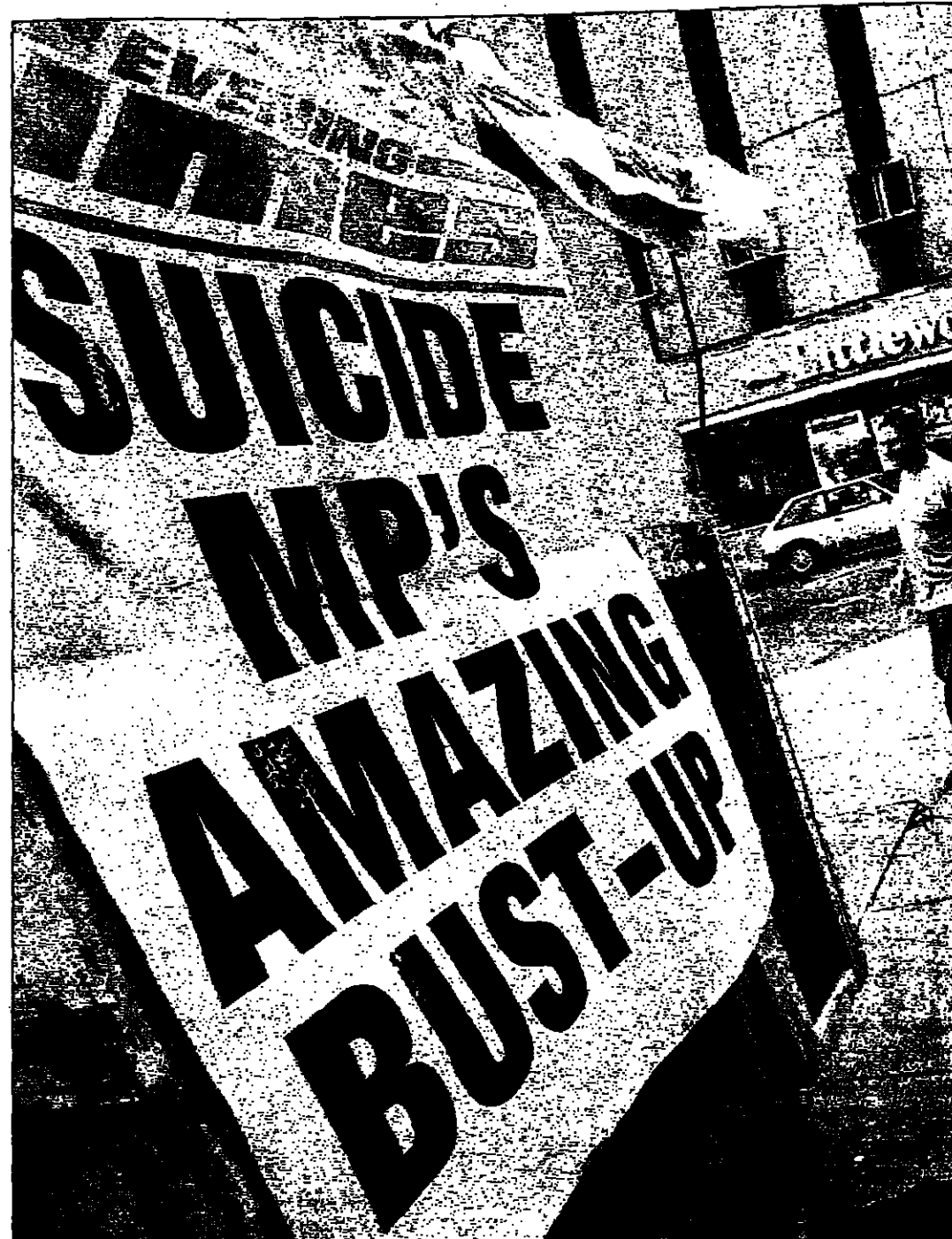
suffered from ME. He drank too much. And in June he suffered a badly injured hand when mugged in a London street.

But there were darker currents. The man who had been leader of Renfrew council at 28 and an MP at 30 had risen rapidly into the Whips Office before being demoted to disability spokesman. He thought

Lord Dixon was responsible for this move. Second, he was convinced that Mr Graham was behind a whispering campaign which led to a local newspaper telephoning him during the election campaign to ask whether he had Aids. Mr Graham has denied this.

Tommy Graham, whose career

Mr McMaster may yet posthumously destroy, was born in 1943 in Govan, the son of a carpenter's labourer. He became a machine-tool fitter at Kolls-Royce, joined the Labour Party and, by 1978, had been elected to Strathclyde council. Facing him from the Conservative benches was Anna McCurley. "Tommy was an easy-going, typical



Gordon McMaster's suicide note has led to an internal party inquiry into events in Paisley

kind of backwoodsman Labour, bit of a slob," she said. "Not well off — the wee wifie in the broon coat and the wean in the buggy."

In 1983 Mr Graham surprised everyone by swapped his fitter's overalls for the comfortable swivel chairs of the solicitors Robertson and Ross, under the job title of office manager. The firm represent-

ed many of his local voters, and handled industrial-injury compensation claims.

There he met Paul Mack, a young assistant hoping to pursue a legal career. Mr Mack is regarded as a sinister figure by Paisley politicians; he became a councillor and was once ejected from the chamber for calling an opponent a

eunuch. His name figured on Mr McMaster's suicide note.

Two years later, Mr Graham was selected to fight the seat of Renfrew West and Inverclyde, then held by the Tories in the person of Mrs McCurley. "When he was appointed as the prospective candidate, we laughed," she said. But on

Continued page 9

ADVERTISEMENT

Homeowners

If you want to afford a better lifestyle...

The Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ (S.A.M.™) is an exciting new concept from Bank of Scotland. There are two S.A.M.s™ both of which allow you to raise money quickly and easily, and with a low interest rate fixed for life, presently 0% or 5.95%.

How does it work?

As the name suggests, all we ask from you when leaving the scheme is that you share with us a percentage of any future appreciation in value of your property, together with repayment of the loan.

The interest rate chosen determines the level of appreciation you will be required to pay when leaving the scheme. Any equity you currently have in the property remains yours, except in the event of any future decrease in the value of your home.

In any case where the property value falls below the initial value, there will be no Shared Appreciation to pay.

0% S.A.M.™

- Zero % interest fixed for life
- No details of income required
- No upper age limits for applicants
- Minimum Loan £15,001
- Minimum Property Valuation £60,000
- Maximum loan 25% of property valuation

5.95% S.A.M.™

- 5.95% fixed for life
- No details of income required
- No upper age limits for applicants
- Minimum Loan £15,001
- Minimum Property Valuation £60,000
- Maximum loan 75% of property valuation

Who decides what the funds can be used for?

You do! Whether you want to raise money to improve your lifestyle by investing for the future, carrying out those long desired home improvements, repaying an existing mortgage, treating yourself to a holiday or purchasing that dream car, then the Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ may be the solution for you.

Can I repay the mortgage at any time?

Yes! The choice of when to repay the mortgage is yours. You can exit at any time, or alternatively it can be repaid on death, or death of the surviving partner, if a joint mortgage.

To apply

It couldn't be easier. Simply call us, or contact your local branch for an application form and brochure. Alternatively, if it is more convenient, cut out the coupon and send it to us. We will then arrange to send you the brochures.

BANK OF SCOTLAND®

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES

Call us today 10am – 2pm

Sunday 10am – 4pm

or Monday to Friday

8am – 6pm on

0131 317 6827

0131 317 6828

0131 317 6829

Please send me more information on the Shared Appreciation Mortgage™ Post to: Bank of Scotland, Residential Mortgages (S.A.M.™) Team, FREEPOST, 41 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9DP.

☐ 0% Scheme ☐ 5.95% Scheme ☐ Both Schemes

Name: _____ SATIME2

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone Number: _____

We are obliged under the provision of the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1989 to include this statement because you are required to create a mortgage over your home as security for the loan. Typical mortgage example: The following example is based on a house value of £130,000, a loan of £71,500 with Shared Appreciation of 50%. Although the loan can be for life this example is based on the whole of the loan and Shared Appreciation being repaid after 20 years. The chargeable rate of interest is 5.95%. Total amount payable will be £294,462 calculated to include 240 monthly payments of £394.52, Shared Appreciation (£100,938), arrangement fee (£500), legal fees (£600), valuation fees on entrance and exit totalling (£549) and an administration fee (£300). The example assumes house price inflation of 4.5% per annum. All amounts are calculated without the benefit of MIRS.

APR 9.0%, APR based on representative information set out above. House price inflation, valuation and legal fees may vary. To apply for a mortgage you must be aged 18 or over. Written consumer credit quotations are available on request from BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgage) No. 3 PLC, No. 4 PLC, and Scotland (No. 2) Ltd, Telex House, 41 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9DR. All lending is subject to approval by Bank of Scotland as agent for BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgage) No. 3 PLC, No. 4 PLC, and Scotland (No. 2) Ltd, require security over the property. An acceptable life assurance policy is also required. Valuations are also required on substantial damage or compulsory purchase of property or if you made improvements costing more than £10,000. All valuations at your cost. Valuation fees vary depending on property valuation. Limited funds available. Currently not available in Northern Ireland. BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgage) No. 3 PLC, BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgage) No. 4 PLC, and BOS (Shared Appreciation Mortgage) (Scotland) No. 2 Ltd are owned subsidiaries of Bank of Scotland. The name Bank of Scotland and its registered trademarks, and (Shared Appreciation Mortgage) and its registered trademarks of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

danger in old Labour's heartland



Tommy Graham in the Highland cottage he bought cheap from the council. The former machine-tool fitter rose rapidly to become a Labour MP at the age of 43

From page 8
election night in 1987, it was Mr Graham who was laughing. The SDP alliance with the Liberals lost massive support and Mr Graham was an MP at 43.

"Parliament meant a good salary and a better way of life," Mrs McCurley said. "Once when I was down at the Commons he was there. All his chins were out, and the belly was out, and the smiles were there. He was telling me he had just dropped £100 at Annabel's or one of the nightclubs."

But the new lifestyle was soon to

be threatened by boundary changes. Mr Graham's powerbase of Linwood was about to be absorbed into the neighbouring constituency of Paisley North, won in 1990 by Irene Adams, widow of its previous MP.

According to Labour leaders, Mr Graham prepared to oust Mrs Adams. At the same time, Paul Mack had designs on Mr McMaster's seat of Paisley South.

If there ever was a hijack plot, it was clumsy and botched. Membership of Linwood branch shot from 57 to 199 in two months of 1993.

many of the newcomers being pensioners who had no idea of what they were joining. Suspicions were aroused; Labour's Scottish executive held an inquiry and closed the Paisley North party.

But no action was taken against Mr Graham. He bounced back when the Boundary Commission added to his constituency the overwhelmingly Labour town of Port Glasgow. He was to survive another internal inquiry last year.

But whatever the internal party skulduggery, it was taking place against the background of a drugs

war in Paisley between two rival families. The town suffered 11 murders in a year.

The drug wars had uncomfortably close links with the Labour-controlled Renfrew council. In 1989 councillors had set up a firm, FCB Security, supposedly to provide security guards for council and business properties. It was launched with £193,000 of public money. The council gave it a £300,000 contract without approaching any rival firms and without placing it on the approved list of contractors. It had two

directors appointed by the council, including Mr Revie, Mr Graham's election agent.

Mrs Adams' suspicions were aroused when constituents claimed that the security guards were dealing in drugs while guarding council property. She claimed that FCB money was being used to buy Labour memberships. She was supported by Mr McMaster and both MPs were given police protection after receiving death threats.

In November 1995, Stewart Gillespie, a local gangster, and other men wearing FCB uniforms burst

into the home of a local crime boss, Mark Rennie. Gillespie gave a colleague a handgun and told him to shoot Rennie. The gun did not go off, but Rennie was shot dead six months later. Gillespie was jailed for life last year for his murder.

Since Mr McMaster's death, the smears have continued. A Scottish Nationalist councillor told a newspaper that Mr McMaster had been having a relationship with an underage schoolboy, which the boy has denied. The SNP has suspended the councillor. Paul Mack told The Sunday Times last April that

Mr McMaster had HIV and was believed to have been cohabiting with a Spanish waiter.

As the vultures gather around Mr Graham, support has come from an unexpected quarter. Mrs McCurley, whose political career he ended, said of him: "He is in it up to his neck and he has got there just by being dumb. I never thought of him as a backstabbing, evil man." But she doubts he will survive. "He is," she said, "classic scapegoat material."

Additional reporting by Gillian Bowditch and Andrew Pierce

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Gordon McMaster, 37, MP for Paisley South who killed himself. A gentle giant popular with colleagues who warned whips that he was a suicide risk. He was persuaded not to jump into the Thames by a Labour MP the previous month. McMaster, a bachelor, he had admitted doubts to friends about his sexuality.



Tommy Graham, 53, neighbouring MP. One of the few Scottish Labour MPs who failed to attend McMaster's funeral. A member of the unrequited blakish tendency of old Scots Labour, despised by Blairites. Damaged his defence in newspaper interview in which he described the late McMaster as a drunk.



Irene Adams, 48, MP for Paisley North. Exposed the whispering campaign against McMaster, was devastated by his death. Determined to have justice and revenge, is working closely with McMaster family to achieve her aims. Outspoken, but respected at Westminster.



Lord Dorn, 68, former MP for Jarrow. Taciturn former Deputy Whip, who blocked McMaster's path to promotion, which contributed to his depression. Wielding great influence, he was unapologetic for the decision; felt McMaster could not take the strain. Horrified to be named in suicide note.



Nick Brown, 47, Chief Whip, dubbed the Grand Inquisitor after inheriting the poisoned chalice of the McMaster investigation. Quietly spoken, has avoided publicity. Until now, was sent anonymous copy of the suicide note. Believes death unrelated to whips. Arranged medical help for McMaster.



Paul Mack, 41, friend of Graham's since mid-1980s. Former rising star of local Labour Party. Desperate for Westminster seat, but dumped by Labour two years ago for assaulting ex-girlfriend. Plotted with Graham to oust McMaster and Adams so they could run Paisley together. Building site worker.



DOVER CALAIS £49 RETURN (CAR + 9 PEOPLE)



If you are planning a summer break to France with your car, go with Stena Line from just £49 for a 3 Day Return. Or, for a longer stay, enjoy our APEX fares of £86 for a 5 Day Return and £146 for a Standard Return ticket. That's savings of up to £77 on our normal fares from Dover to Calais and up to £109 from Newhaven to Dieppe. Remember, to take advantage of the APEX offers, you must book and pay at least 48 hours in advance of travel. With 50 daily sailings across the Channel, you'll find Stena Line brings you a service second to none. To book call 0990 70 70 70 or see your Travel Agent.

The offers are valid for travel until 30 Sept '97 and are subject to restricted space. Offers may not apply to certain sailings. New bookings only. There is a £20 amendment and a 50% cancellation fee on all APEX bookings. For full terms and conditions see our current Fast Ferry & Ferry Guide 1997.

Stena Line

The next generation of ferry company

COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU



You can have all this on your PC with LineOne.
An amazing world of on-line entertainment and information.

• One month's FREE membership to LineOne

• 10 hours FREE access to LineOne and the Internet

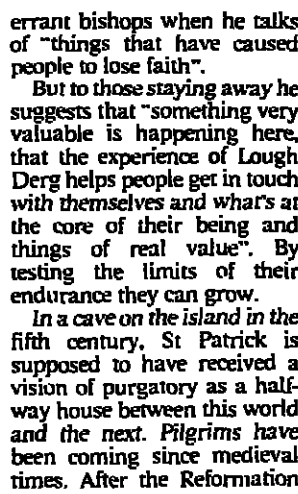
Call for your FREE software pack now on 0800 111 210



Martin Fletcher says the decline of one of the toughest pilgrimages in Christendom is a symptom of Ireland's increasing secularisation

day during the ten-week season that started yesterday there used to be thousands doing penance on the island. Today the pilgrims are thinner on the ground. From a peak of nearly 35,000 in 1953, and 28,000 in 1958, attendance has fallen to just 13,000 in another example of how even Ireland is growing steadily more secular.

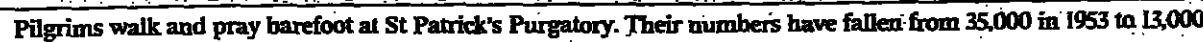
Mgr Richard Mohan, the shrine's red-haired prior, cites "a decline in religious practice all throughout the country," the rise of the "Celtic tiger," Ireland's booming economy — and a new affluence that has dulled people's spirituality and made winning the lottery today's equivalent of salvation. He also blames the Catholic Church, referring obliquely to the scandals involving paedophile priests and



Today's pilgrims arrive on buses from Dublin or Sligo to do penance, give thanks, pray for miracles or search for peace of mind. Where the lone track across the mountains ends at the water's edge, old boats ferry them across.

Cameras, radios and mobile telephones are forbidden. All footwear must be removed — instantly destroying social status and revealing an amazing array of toenails. For three days the pilgrims eat just one meal of dry toast and black tea. They observe a 24-hour sleepless vigil, attend numerous services, and perform nine stations or prayer routines that involve endless barefooted circuits of the stony island while reciting 2,421 creeds, Hail Marys and Our Fathers. The midgets are often unbearable, and this flirtation with purgatory costs pilgrims £16.

"If you put your trust in God



For David Devine, a Strabane farmer, "this is squaring the account up" — a way of thanking God each year. Harry Eastwood, a retired car dealer from County Dublin, recalled an old belief that three visits guaranteed passage to

Those are the purists, the truly devout. "Lourdes is a holiday. You book into a hotel. This to me is a real pilgrimage," said Mary Martin, a Dublin nurse. Tom Hanson, an elementary school teacher

from New York, is making his thirty-seventh visit. "It's always difficult. It never gets any easier, but you get a totally wonderful feeling..." But, confessed Margaret Humphreys, a Cork supermarket employee: "I am daydreaming about steak and chips and a nice bowl of soup."



The Comet Price Index is your authoritative guide to the lowest prices around. We can say that with confidence because our prices are checked every single day to make sure they match or beat everyone else's.

Indeed we're so confident our prices can't be beaten that we offer the Comet Price Promise guarantee.

The Comet Price Index - look out for it in your paper every Saturday and updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 2425. You can't buy better - and that's a fact.

The Comet Price Index - look out for it in your paper every Saturday and updated daily on Teletext Channel 4 p425. You can't buy better - and that's a fact.

The Comet Price Promise guarantees that, if you buy any product then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference. PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

AWARD WINNING PRODUCTS
These experts test and review our range. Products displayed with  denote award winning products and  denote highly recommended products.

SAVE UP TO 50% OFF | **Electrolux** 1436 Convector Microwave | **TRIMAX** 36615P Food Steamer

UP TO 40 IN STOCK

KIDS GO FREE TO TOP UK ATTRACTIONS WITH ALL MICROVISA

HOOVER 11.11 PlugPower Long 1700 watts suction power SEE

KENWOOD Juice Extractor 2 speed control 1.5 litre stainless steel SEE

SAVE UP TO £50 ON HI-FI SYSTEMS

<p>NEW £99.99</p> <p>800 watts IEC 0.6 cu. ft. capacity</p>	<p>On-board logic Case operation</p> <p>£149.99</p>	<p>1000 watts IEC 1.0 cu. ft. capacity 1000 watts IEC 1.0 cu. ft. capacity</p> <p>£199.99</p>
--	--	--

previous: £19.99 **SAVE £20** **£19.99** Unique English Print **£19.99**
BUY NOW PAY 0 MONTHS LATER
£19.99 previous: £114.99 **SAVE £5** **£19.99** **£19.99**

with Grd. 800 watts AC
2 1/2 coll capacity.

UP TO 250 IN STORE

VACUUM CLEANERS
UP TO \$5 IN STORE

Blomberg 5001: Bread toaster	Bodyliss 225: Shaver	NEW 1249: 6 MONTHS DEFERRED PRICE OFFER
1200 watts, auto power controls with lock	Shaver with 2000-4000 Hz	
SALE PRICE	SEE LIST	
MAIL \$9		

[illegible]

On-board toilet
and 120V AC
SAVE \$60 £79.99

with Steam Bath, Air-ride
cushions, Air-Seat, 5-Door
Cruise Control
SAVE \$5 £39.99

MSRP \$179.99 **SAVE OVER 50% \$89.99** | 1 Year ~~Warranty~~ **Warranty** | MSRP \$179.99 **SAVE \$34.99** | 12 MONTHS BEST PRICE GUARANTEE

COMET

CALL FREE ON 0500 425 425 FOR LOCAL STORE DETAIL
MAJOR STORES OPEN SUNDAY AND UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS

Current 44 is a good first book for the subject. (JAMES GRACE, JR., *Journal of Management*, Vol. 14, No. 2, 1988, pp. 149-152.)

فمن آمن بالله

Emmanuel
Ogundele

We live in an age when so much is compartmentalised. Our popular slogan is: "Everything must be kept separate so as to do away with as much ambiguity as possible." Unfortunately, our penchant for clarity in all areas of human endeavour has blinded us to the fact that man himself is a being riddled with ambiguity. No matter how much we want things clarified, at the end of the day there are still more questions than answers.

We have estranged certain values that have helped society from times immemorial. Most scholars are inclined to say that science and religion are antithetical, or that anthropology, sociology, medicine and other disciplines should be given as much autonomy as possible so that their findings will be untrammelled by the influence of religion, especially Christianity.

But religion and morality are inseparable partners; they cannot be severed from society since they are intimately connected with how we live our lives and relate to the ultimate reality, or God.

However, in our post-modern society we have removed our support system, the entire fabric on which society was built, and we have fallen flat on our faces. We seem to have detached the religious dimension of human life from morality and expect to make a success story of our new independence. Thus, good and bad are only relative values. We are now ourselves the ultimate deciders of values, not minding whether there are values that predate us. We really need to look back to see whether we are better or worse with our newly won independence.

Christianity helped Western society to attain a high degree of morality, right up to the Victorian age. I am not saying all was perfect then, but for any keen observer it is a fact that morality has declined since the influence of Christianity waned in society.

There can be no denying that all is not well with society. There is no depth of soul or spirituality to help to stabilise and control our wonderful technical and scientific advancement. We need religion and morality to supply what is needed if we are intent on retaining our humanness, and even our sanity. While we leave open our doors to morality (which has become relative to us, no longer absolute), we proudly disallow religion from entering. Before we know it, we are beginning to produce human monsters.

I was chatting with someone not long ago who said that while he was aware society was sick, he prefers the present age to the one before, where there was no freedom. I

The Rev Emmanuel Ogundele, 33, is the acting head of the department of philosophy at Sts Peter and Paul Major Seminary, Ibadan, Nigeria. Last year he was refused a British entry visa from Louven University, in Belgium, forcing the priest he was to relieve to cancel his holiday. This year he was granted a visa by the British Embassy in Lagos and is currently helping out as a holiday relief priest at St Mark's, Liverpool. Many Roman Catholic priests rely on holiday reliefs from abroad. Last week John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, intervened on behalf of six of Father Ogundele's colleagues studying at Louven, who were unable to obtain visas for Britain.

asked him what he meant by freedom. His answer was "People are able to express themselves now more than ever. You can now dress the way you like, think the way you like and do what you want to do, without any serious parental or religious controls. This was where he went wrong, Fred, if property understood, goes with responsibility. If a pornographic and erotic culture is freedom, then something is amiss. If there's abuse, lack of a sense of shame, murder, arson, drug holism, drug use, burglary, corruption, piracy, mugging, racism and heavy-handed morality is freedom, then we need a rethink.

We must think about what, in the past, helped society to be almost an exact opposite of what it is today. If we think that to be without God and religion is to be free, we are perhaps in a much greater bondage than before, because a life without God will be filled with something worse than God. We need a remarging of morality and religion to help to halt the abysmal drop in the standard of morality in society today.

At Your Service
Weekend page 14

The wheels come off centenarians' flight of fancy

EIGHTY sprightly centenarians flew into London yesterday in what is thought to be the world's largest gathering of 100-year-olds. Armed with wheelchairs and walking sticks, they arrived at City Airport for a special sightseeing tour and lunch.

Many of the party, including some of the Britons who had flown to Belgium on Thursday to meet their fellow centenarians, had never been in an aeroplane before. Mary Ellen from Newcastle upon Tyne, who was born in 1894, thought it "the best way to travel... I've loved every minute". She now considered herself an old hand. "Can't wait for next time".

It could be there won't be a next time. The day turned into something of a shambles when the sightseeing tour ran out of time and lunch at the Marlborough Hotel had to be cut short so that the party could get back to the airport in time.

The trip was dreamt up by Freddy Van Gaster, the managing director of the Belgian airline VLM, when he heard that his secretary's centenarian mother had never flown before. Together with Sabena, he set about

Kathryn Knight follows a group of 100-year-olds whose first time in an aeroplane could be their last

organising the gathering.

The group were accompanied by relatives and carers. One relative, who did not wish to be named, said: "We are not very happy. My mother has travelled from Durham to London and will be going back to Durham, all in around 36 hours. She didn't even get to see Antwerp and she was disappointed that there was no time for a coach tour in London today."

The centenarians did hear a personal message from Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at lunch. Most of the British contingent were quietly proud that the Queen Mother, a mere 97, was not old enough to join them.

Ann Harris, from Kent, had a message for her: "I've had to work hard all my life. But a bit of good living and a good healthy belly does you no harm."

Robbie Burns, a 101-year-old from Glasgow, was no stranger to flying. The last remaining Cameron Highlander who fought in the First World War, including the Battle of the Somme, he has travelled round the world twice since his wife died 30 years ago. Asked if he was enjoying himself, he replied with a wink: "It's all free, isn't it?"

The centenarians had gathered in an hotel in Antwerp on Thursday night to prepare for their flight to London. "They had quite a knees-up," said Elaine Finch, from the servicemen's charity, SSAFA, who sponsored the English contingent. "Some of their children had to go to bed before them because they couldn't take the pace."

However, after things started to go wrong yesterday, a spokeswoman for the charity said they were unhappy with the arrangements and did not think the experience would be repeated.



Maria During from Belgium, aged 101, waiting to be helped from the aircraft at City Airport yesterday. From there the trip went downhill

Rail firms told to answer calls

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

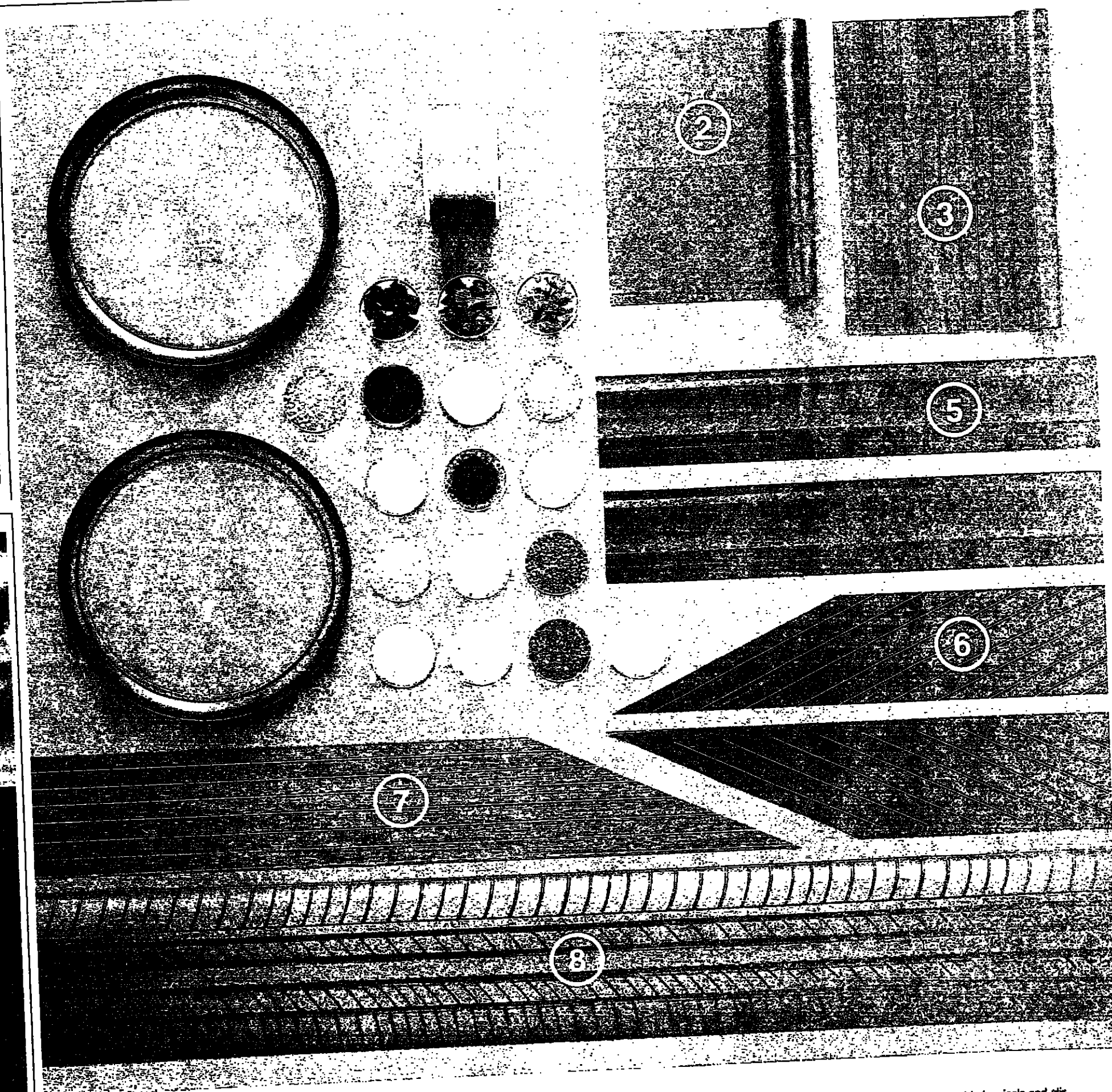
RAIL companies will be fined more than £400,000 next month unless they improve their telephone inquiry service. The rail regulator said yesterday that too many calls were going unanswered and gave train operators four weeks to meet targets.

John Swift issued an enforcement order requiring train operators to answer nine in ten calls by September 14. If the train companies, who jointly run the national service, fail to improve on their current 82 per cent response rate, they face a total fine of £450,000. Should there be a decline in the standard of service, which he found to have improved, they could face fines of more than £1 million.

Management consultants said that the target fell well below standards elsewhere in the private sector. Many com-

panies set targets of answering 90 per cent of calls within 15 seconds. The rail regulator sets no time limit, although unanswered calls are generally automatically cut off after three minutes. David Naylor, of TSC Europe, said: "Simply setting a target for answering the telephone is only scratching the surface. You have to know what happens when the call is answered, what information is given, how long is spent with the customer and many other issues."

The rail regulator plans to set tougher targets for companies once they succeed in answering nine out of ten calls, pushing for 95 per cent of those calls to be answered within 30 seconds. Mr Swift has also set up an investigation into the quality of service; the results will be published next month.



MOST GERMAN RECIPES PRODUCE TOUGH, INEDIBLE RESULTS. THIS ONE IS NO EXCEPTION.

Ask a German for his favourite recipe and you won't be surprised if it's inedible. Nevertheless, we bring you this highlight from the Continental tyre engineers' recipe book. At least you know this dish is meant to be rubbery.

1. First make your basic rubber compound using natural and synthetic rubber, sulphur, resin, aromatic oil, carbon black, stearic acid, cobalt stearate, wax and a unique blend of vulcanisation and anti-oxidant chemicals. These are probably not the sort of ingredients you have at home - unless you're a Continental tyre engineer. Mix, then test (but don't taste) for consistency.

2. Make an airtight inner liner by rolling butyl rubber into a wide thin layer and trim. This will ensure your tyre rises nicely and doesn't go flat.

3. In a calendaring machine, make body plies to form the tyre's carcass. The carcass gives the tyre its strength and also cushions you, even on roads lumpier and bumpier than German custard.

4. With brass-coated steel cords, form a circle to make the tyre 'beads'. These will make sure your tyre sits securely on the wheel rims.

5. Take two strips of rubber and form the outer sidewalls. These protect tyres from

bangs and scrapes, and the chemicals added earlier help reduce the harmful effects of ozone and the sun. (Our engineers hate to see their pride and joy looking anything less than perfect.)

6. Now cover brass-coated steel with rubber to make belt plies. Place under the tread, to provide longer life and a better shape. Not what you normally associate with German cooking.

7. Make the cap plies by embedding nylon in rubber to form a bandage over the belt plies and under the tread. This improves high speed handling and stability.

8. To make the tread, add chemicals and stir into the basic rubber compound. Heat and pass through an extruder.

You'll now need your tyre building machines. Combine the bead, inner liner, carcass, sidewalls, belt plies and tread. Spray the outside of the tyre with lubricant and the inside with silicon.

Place in a vulcanising mould and cook for 10 minutes at 150°C and 12 bar of pressure. Remove and leave to cool. You've now made a very tasty Continental tyre.

Of course, if you can't be bothered with all the preparation, you can always get a take-away from your local tyre dealer.

Continental®

FANTASY

VH1

MUSIC THAT MEANS SOMETHING.

Music television from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, available on cable and satellite.

Russian kept his sex slaves underground

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

A MIDDLE-AGED carpenter arrested in a remote town in central Russia has confessed to enslaving half a dozen young women who were kept for years in a large underground prison. Aleksandr Komin, 44, has admitted four murders and kidnapping and enslaving six people, three of whom he had sex with.

The secret prison was revealed late last month when a distraught young woman in the town of Vyatskiye Polyany, about 400 miles east of Moscow near the city of Kazan, ran into a police station and said she had been held as a slave in a cavernous cellar.

Although the police did not believe her, officers sent to investigate discovered a 30ft deep complex of living quarters and workrooms beneath a garage.

They also found the only two survivors of Komin's private prison. The two women, who were in their thirties, had the word "Rab" — Russian for



slave — tattooed on their foreheads and had not seen daylight for more than two years, since their capture.

Dmitri Seryukov, a reporter who broke the story in the daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, said yesterday: "It was the creepiest sight I have ever seen. A metal staircase led very deep underground. To think those poor people lived there for all that time — it was haunting."

Komin built the labyrinth with a friend over several years. Once it was ready he invited young women, usually divorcees with few local ties, for a drink. He would spike

their vodka with sleeping pills. When they awoke Komin would tell them their lives above ground were over and they were beginning a new existence in his "Co-operative Prison".

Most of the time the women were used as manual labour to enlarge the cellar or to sew clothes such as men's underwear, which he sold at the local market. The idea apparently dawned on Komin because he had served three years in a Soviet labour camp.

Only once did he attempt to imprison a young man — a former paratrooper — when he wanted heavy manual work done. However, Zhenya Shishov refused to co-operate and eventually Komin electrocuted him. Another man, whose girlfriend became a slave, was also murdered, and two of the women were similarly disposed of once Komin had become bored with them as sex slaves. Their bodies were left on the town's rubbish dump. The prisoners were frequently handcuffed or had dog collars around their

necks, although escape was almost impossible since the metal staircase — the only means of leaving — was electrified.

Komin would probably have been able to keep his private penal colony going for many more years undetected had he not fallen in love with his last victim, Irina Ganushkina, who he captured in February.

She announced that she was pregnant after having regular sex with him and he proposed an underground wedding. She agreed, but insisted she had to make preparations and was allowed out on a shopping trip. She alerted the police.

Komin has told them he regrets his actions, which appear to have been partly an act against women because his first wife was repeatedly unfaithful. A few years ago he would have been executed, but that is less likely now as Russia phases out capital punishment. He says he is prepared to die, but if he is imprisoned threatens to use his tunnelling skills to escape.



A policeman confronts a crowd of about 2,000 Islamists protesting in Istanbul yesterday over a secularist education Bill. Clashes started after the marchers' route was blocked by police, who used water cannon to disperse the crowd.

THE EXPERTS IN TOURING

SALE ON TOURING



SAVE £10
Halfords High Mount Cycle Carrier
No need for separate lighting board.
Was £69.99
NOW £59.99



SAVE £2
When you buy any two sunblinds/sunshades at £4.99 each or more.



SAVE 1/3
on selected torches
Halfords Adjustable Beam 2 cell torch.
Was £3.99
NOW £2.65



SAVE £2
Halfords Car Fan
Was £9.99
NOW £7.99
Operates from a cigar lighter socket

SAVE £10
Halfords Electric Cool Box
28 litre. Was £89.99
NOW £79.99
Operates from a cigar lighter socket

SAVE 25% on selected Atlases

BRITAIN'S NO.1 FOR CAR CARE & SECURITY

SALE ON CAR CARE



SAVE £20
Halfords High Security Steering Wheel Shield
Was £69.99
NOW £49.99



SAVE £2
Color Magic
Was £8.99
NOW £6.99



SAVE 1/3
on selected seat covers
Special edition Matchstick line (Illustrated)
Was £29.99
NOW £19.99



SAVE £30
K620M Karcher Pressure Washer
Was £279.99
NOW £249.99

SAVE £1
Halfords Colour Polish
Was £6.99
NOW £5.99

HALFORDS SUMMER SALE

SALE

NOW ON GREAT SAVINGS ON MANY ITEMS THROUGHOUT THE STORE

NO.1 FOR OIL

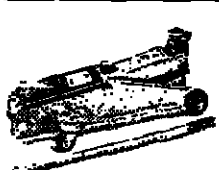
SALE ON OIL & WORKSHOP



SAVE £2
Duckhams Hypergrade 5 Litre
Was £9.99
NOW £7.99



SAVE £2
Duckhams Hypergrade Plus 5 Litre
Was £14.99
NOW £12.99



SAVE £5
TJ 2000 2 Ton Hydraulic Trolley Jack
Was £24.99
NOW £19.99



SAVE £3
Halfords Mini 30 Piece Socket Set
Was £12.99
NOW £9.99

HALFORDS CAR PARTS

SALE ON CAR SERVICING



SAVE £2
on Haynes Manuals
when you trade-in your old one and buy a new one
Was £11.99
TRADE-IN PRICE £9.99



SAVE £2
when you buy an oil and air filter and set of spark plugs together (including Bosch Super 4 plugs).
NOW £19.99



HALF PRICE
Number Plate
Buy one number plate and get the second one for half price.
TWO PLATES FROM £11.99

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST CHOICE OF BIKES & ACCESSORIES

SALE ON BIKES



BUY NOW PAY 1998
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £150 ON SELECTED BIKES WHEN YOU TRADE IN YOUR OLD BIKE.



SAVE £10
Apollo Corona Ladies Mountain Bike
Was £109.99
NOW £99.99
EXTRA TRADE-IN PRICE £89.99



SAVE £30
Apollo Tesqua Shimano 18 speed indexed gears with grips.
Was £179.99
TRADE-IN PRICE £149.99



SAVE £20
Diamond Back Cherokee Shimano 21 speed bike with EZ Fire shifters.
Was £249.99
NOW £229.99



SAVE £5
Apollo Zoo Suitable for 3-5 year olds.
Was £44.99
NOW £39.99



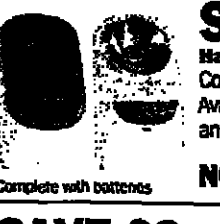
SAVE £10
Apollo Aweosoma Shimano 5 speed junior mountain bike.
Was £99.99
NOW £89.99



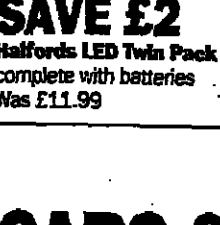
SAVE £10
Apollo Aweosoma Shimano 5 speed junior mountain bike.
Was £99.99
NOW £89.99



SAVE £7
Halfords Headstart Helmet
Was £16.99
NOW £9.99



SAVE £4
Halfords Cycle Lamps
Conforms to BS6102/3. Available in white, grey, teal and purple.
Was £14.99
NOW £10.99



SAVE £2
Halfords LED Twin Peak Static and flash sequence, complete with batteries.
Was £11.99
NOW £9.99

Cyprus peace talks collapse as Greek pilgrims visit north

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MORE THAN 600 Greek Cypriots crossed into northern Cyprus yesterday on a pilgrimage to a remote monastery regarded as the Orthodox faithful's holiest site on the island. Their visit was the first by so many Greek Cypriots since the Turkish invasion in 1974.

"I'm happy because I'll be seeing these places for the first time in 23 years, but sad because I won't get the chance to see my house there," said Constantinos Savvides, 74, as he walked past the barbed-wire barricades into the short stretch of UN-patrolled land that divides Nicosia, the capital.

For the scores of younger Greek Cypriots, including many children who had not even been born in 1974, it was a day to remember. "I am excited to see what I never saw before, to see the place where my father grew up," said Maria Zariou, 16.

But the pilgrims returned to gloomy reports from Switzerland that five days of high-level talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders aimed at reunifying the island had ended in failure after Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, refused to drop objections to the island's

possible entry into the European Union.

"At the end of the week we are exactly where we were when we came here," said President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader. He called on the United Nations Security Council to take action against the Turkish side.

But Mr Denktas laid the blame firmly on Brussels, saying that the EU's recent decision to include Cyprus in a list of six candidates for membership "threw a bombshell at the talks".

Nevertheless, the Greek pilgrims refused to allow their day to be spoilt. Most of them carried cameras to record the momentous occasion, as well as large candles to light during a special service at the imposing Monastery of St Andreas, perched by the sea at the tip of the Karpas peninsula, some 80 miles from Nicosia.

Their visit was made possible by a recent agreement between Mr Clerides and Mr Denktas to improve contacts between the two sides and to co-operate on humanitarian issues. It came in the wake of the visit earlier this year of Turkish Cypriot pilgrims to an important Islamic shrine in the Greek Cypriot south.

PRIMUS

Receive £10 worth of free calls today!

Start saving now on calls to over 250 countries worldwide using any touch-tone phone.

Country	Primus	BT	Savings
USA	9p	24p	63%
Australia	23p	45p	53%
India	65p	120p	46%
Pakistan	84p	133p	37%
South Africa	45p	104p	56%

One minute call at standard rates inclusive of VAT.
*Subject to conditions, available on application.

For further details simply call:

0800 036 1997



HALFORDS

WE'RE



ABOUT CARS & BIKES

**THIS OFFER IS ONLY VALID THROUGH YOUR HALFORDS CARD. AND PURCHASE A NEW VEHICLE THROUGH HALFORDS. AT THE SAME TIME. **NOT ALL OFFERS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL AREAS. ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO STOCK. NOT AVAILABLE IN ANY AREA WHERE A HALFORDS STORE IS NOT OPEN. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW CARS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW BIKES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW ACCESSORIES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW TYRES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW OIL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW FILTERS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW SPARK PLUGS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW BRAKES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW WAX. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW CAR CARE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW BATTERIES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP GLASS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BULBS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SOCKETS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP WIRING. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HOUSINGS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP MOUNTS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BRACKETS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SCREWS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP NUTS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP WASHERS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP GASKETS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP O-RINGS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SEALS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP GROMMETS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TUBES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BELLS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP CAPS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP COVERS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP PROTECTORS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP GUARDS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SHIELDS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BARRIERS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FENCES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP WALLS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FLOORS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP CEILINGS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ROOFS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BASES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOUNDATIONS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP STRUCTURES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FRAMEWORKS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SKELETONS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SPINES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP RIBS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP STERNA. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP PELVIS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP COCCYX. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TAILBONE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SKULL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP JAW. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP CHEEKS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP NOSE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP EARS. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP EYES. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP MOUTH. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP THROAT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP NECK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP SHOULDER. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ARM. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ELBOW. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP WRIST. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HAND. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FINGER. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP THUMB. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HEEL. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP ANKLE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP KNEE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP HIP. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP BUTTOCK. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP LEG. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP FOOT. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW LAMP TOE. **OFFER OFFERS HALF PRICE ON ALL NEW

Iran sought Pretoria nuclear deal

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

IRAN has tried to buy items needed for the production of nuclear weapons from South Africa.

A detailed shopping list, presented to the head of South Africa's Atomic Energy Corporation by Reza Amrollahi, Iran's Deputy Minister of Atomic Affairs, was rejected by stunned officials, according to a report to be published in a British defence magazine.

Dr. Waldo Stumpf, head of the corporation, said he was handed a file after a meeting that took place

early last year in Pellindaba near Pretoria. "It contained a comprehensive list of items needed for manufacturing nuclear weapons," he said. "There were some very advanced things asked for: blueprints, industrial, chemical and laboratory equipment, and other essentials required for the production of weapons of mass destruction."

Dr Stumpf told the Iranian minister that, in accordance with the provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, under no circumstances could he or members of his staff comply.

R.F. "Pik" Botha, then the Minister

of Energy Affairs, has confirmed he attended the meeting, which was apparently organised by President Mandela's office, the September issue of *Jane's International Defence Review* says. The report mentions that South Africa, a de facto nuclear power, was a key destination on Iran's worldwide shopping trip for nuclear technology which also took its officials to Ukraine and Central Asian countries.

It says Tehran has made "considerable progress" in its quest towards developing nuclear weapons. Quoting South African Defence Force officials, it reveals that an undis-

closed number of technicians made redundant by the scrapping of the South African nuclear programme have been hired by Iran.

South Africa has stopped manufacturing weapons-grade uranium, but still retains wide expertise in the field of nuclear technology. Even though the Iranians apparently left empty-handed, news of the meeting will raise concern over Iran's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons.

It has also cast a spotlight on Iran's manipulation of the close relationship it has developed with South Africa to the chagrin of the United States. South Africa buys two thirds

of its oil from Iran. The United States last year expressed its displeasure over the red-carpet treatment that was afforded to a high-profile delegation of visiting Iranian government officials.

Weapons sales: Congo-Brazzaville government troops are using South African armoured vehicles, rockets, mortars and other materiel described by Pretoria as non-lethal. The South African weekly *Mail and Guardian* interviewed unnamed French sources in Paris who said the weapons included multiple-rocket launchers delivered to Pointe-Noire. (AFP)

Anniversary in India sees outpouring of despair on corruption

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA awoke on its 50th anniversary yesterday to an unprecedented outpouring of despair in the editorial columns of practically every newspaper, echoing in sometimes brutal language the sense of failure and betrayal that are felt across much of South Asia, home to one fifth of humanity.

What should have been a day to celebrate turned into an occasion of lamentation. The tone was set by Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, whose call for a mass movement to fight corruption in politics and the bureaucracy touched the country's rawest nerve.

Every Indian is affected by corruption: the police, politicians and most civil servants are despised for making life almost impossible. Some of the nation's best known politicians face corruption charges, although it is rare for powerful political figures to go to jail or lose their ill-gotten fortunes. Editorial writers are unanimous in declaring that corruption is now so rampant it directly threatens democracy.

Mr Gujral, known for his integrity, called corruption a curse on the country, poisoning politics and making life



harder for ordinary Indians. Everyone should refuse to pay bribes and to report those asking for them, even if they were members of his Cabinet.

The *Times of India* said in a front-page commentary that the dream of 50 years ago had become a nightmare. Idealism had been replaced by cynicism. The pursuit of power had blinded politicians, whose disregard for values and decency was matched by greed and untamed ambition.

The theme was pursued in the paper's editorial column, which noted that a third of the country's population subsisted below the poverty line and more than 20 million children were enslaved in bonded employment, often in life-threatening conditions. "A disgust with politics as it is practised appears to be taking root in a soil increasingly receptive to the seeds of authoritarianism by any other name," it said.

The *Hindu* noted that a commitment to democracy had, for the most part, been India's greatest strength, but went on to declare that the "crisis with destiny" proclaimed by Jawaharlal Nehru 50 years ago had not been fulfilled. It said 350 million people lived in poverty and 450 million were illiterate. "Confronting the squalid reality of these figures 50 years later, it is clear that the Indian state still faces the primary test of its moral authority in demonstrating a capacity and will to overcome these grim problems."

A columnist in *The Pioneer* spoke of the stark, numbing reality of all-pervasive despair on the nation's 50th anniversary.



Gujral addressing the nation yesterday



Some of the hundreds of youngsters who joined a Delhi protest against child labour

ry. "The descent from the sunlit peak of 1947 to the dark depth of 1997 is too shocking to be shrugged off casually. It is not only a sad commentary on the use we have made of 50 years of freedom but has very disturbing implications for the future."

The *Hindustan Times* acknowledged that there were plenty of failures, but noted: "This country has shown to the world that poverty and illiteracy and a population of bewildering plurality are not antithetical to sustaining a vibrant democracy with all freedoms, especially the freedom of thought and expression." India had built an industrial base capable of matching many developing economies of the world. It had the third largest scientific and technological manpower and was a member of the exclusive

clubs of nuclear and space "haves". It insisted, unique among yesterday's papers, that the country had fulfilled its trust with destiny.

Guwahati: Six people were killed in India's northeastern region in scattered incidents of violence, and separatists led a general strike coinciding with independence celebrations, police said yesterday.

Separatist guerrillas shot four people dead in three overnight attacks in Assam, according to police in the state's biggest city, Guwahati. Separatist militants also blew up a bridge in the central section of the state and set fire to a small railway station on the main track connecting the region with the rest of India. Tribal guerrillas killed two Bengali-speaking Hindus at Teliamura in Tripura on Thursday night, while six

separatist groups in Tripura, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland states called last month for a general strike on Independence Day and a boycott of celebrations marking 50 years of freedom from British rule.

Two tribal groups demanding that separate provinces be carved out of Manipur and Tripura joined the strike. In other developments, two bomb blasts occurred in Nagaland, but no one was injured, the Press Trust of India reported. One of the explosions occurred minutes after the state's Chief Minister gave an Independence Day speech. "Life is normal in all parts of the state," Nepal Das, a senior police official, said in Agartala, Tripura's capital. He said paramilitary troops had been deployed in the state. (Reuters)

Letters, page 19

Dhaka students burn plotters' effigies

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN DHAKA

STUDENTS yesterday burnt effigies of five alleged plotters of the 1975 coup in which Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed, as a report said ten suspected fugitives had been tracked down.

The demonstrations came as Bangladesh mourned its slain leader, assassinated 22 years ago to the day. Tens of thousands of tearful mourners streamed to the home - now a museum - and the grave of Sheikh Mujibur in his family village of Tazupara, 70 miles from the capital. They placed wreaths or just a flower in both places.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed ac-

companied the slain leader's daughter, the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, to place wreaths at the foot of his portrait in the museum as a military band played the *Last Post*. The red-and-green national flag flew at half mast and many places flew black flags in memory of the man who led the country to independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Students at Dhaka University set fire to effigies of five of the alleged coup plotters, demanding that they be tried by a special tribunal. "Keeping the self-confessed killers untried for the past two decades was the root cause of terrorism and anarchy in the country and the trial will end that," Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, a teacher and leader of an anti-fundamentalist group, said. Hun-

dreds of students watched as the effigies of retired army officers Farooq Rahman, Badul Huda, Shariful Huq Dalim, Abdur Rashid and Shahriar Rashid Khan went up in flames while riot police stood by. The *Sangbad* and *Bhorer Kagoj* newspapers, quoting unidentified official sources, said ten of those wanted in connection with the coup had been traced: four others were in hiding.

The trial of the 19, accused of taking part in the August 15, 1975, coup opened in January, but only five are in court with the rest being tried in absentia.

Yesterday reports claimed that one of the key plotters of the putsch was in Britain. Other suspects were hiding in Canada, the United States, Germany, Zimbabwe, Libya and Hong Kong.



Sheikh Mujibur: flags flown in his memory

Democracy campaigners attack new election law in Hong Kong

FROM REUTERS
IN HONG KONG

THE China-backed Hong Kong Government yesterday published a new election law that will curtail democracy in the former British colony. The move provoked condemnation from pro-democracy activists.

Revealing the draft election law for the first time, Michael Suen, the Constitutional Affairs Secretary, said the public should not be "petty-minded" over the issue of only one-third of the 60-seat Provisional Legislature being returned by geographical constituencies in next May's polls.

The remaining 40 seats will be filled by representatives from business and professional bodies in so-called function-

al constituencies, and by an election committee made up of pro-China politicians, businessmen and professionals.

"Whatever else regarding the election committee, the functional constituencies, I do look upon them as expedients - transient arrangements which will not last," Mr Suen told a news conference. "Our main focus should be on direct election." He said the Government would present the draft law to the China-annointed Provisional Legislature next Wednesday, hoping it would be passed by the end of September.

Under the new arrangements, more than two million people who were eligible to vote in the 1995 Legislative Council polls' functional con-

stituencies would be disenfranchised. They would be replaced by corporate votes numbering no more than 200,000.

The pro-democracy movement in the territory attacked the plan. "The majority of the seats in the Legislative Council will be dominated by the rich and the powerful, and the pro-Communists, so this system is fraudulent, undemocratic and bad. It should be exposed and condemned," Emily Lau, the ousted pro-democracy legislator, said.

Along with the members of the territory's popular Democratic Party, she was thrown out of office on July 1 when Britain returned Hong Kong to Chinese rule. They were replaced by members of the

Provisional Legislature. Lee Wing-tat, another ousted Democratic Party legislator, said: "This... arrangement is designed for those who Mr Tung wants to see elected." Mr Lee was referring to Hong Kong's Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa.

Britain's chief diplomat in Hong Kong, Francis Cornish, welcomed the plan to hold the election as early as May, but voiced misgivings about curtailing democracy.

Children arrive: Dozens of children who were born in China, some of whom had been stranded there for years without their families, walked across the border to be with their parents in Hong Kong. About 60,000 are waiting to join their families.

WORLD SUMMARY

Colombia to seize drug cash

Bogota: The Colombian Constitutional Court's endorsement of a law allowing the seizure of assets acquired with drug money has been welcomed as a big step in the fight against drug trafficking (Victoria Burnett writes).

"This marks the beginning of the end of a history of violence, drug trafficking and corruption," said Claudia Blum, a Liberal Party senator and one of the law's original proponents.

The law, passed by Congress last December, was questioned on the ground that it violated the individual's right to private property. The court voted three to six to uphold it late on Wednesday. Because the law is retroactive, the state can now seize assets belonging to major traffickers. The cartels own millions of pounds worth of properties. Leading article, page 19

Kenya fighting strands tourists

Mombasa: Hundreds of tourists were stranded as more Kenyan security forces were sent in to tackle marauders who have killed at least 21 people around this Indian Ocean port.

Police closed the road from Mombasa to beach resorts and tourists were urged not to leave hotels as police and troops fought gun battles with about 100 armed men. (AFP)

Matron kills 18

Cairo: Aida Nur el-Din, 42, a matron, is in a coma after allegedly admitting killing at least 18 patients and then attempting suicide, so that she would not be disturbed at night. (AP)

Judge let off

Lima: Peru's Interior Ministry has reversed its decision to charge Judge Elba Minaya Calle with terrorism for ordering the release of a woman with alleged links to rebel guerrilla groups. (AFP)

Olive branch

Tokyo: The North Korean and Japanese Governments announced that they will for the first time in nearly five years hold talks in Beijing next week on eventually establishing diplomatic relations. (AP)

Ferries sink

Manila: At least four Hong Kong tourists and 12 Filipinos died and 75 people were believed to be missing after two ferry boats sank in separate incidents in Manila and the central Philippines. (AP)

Words of love

Beijing: A Chinese bridegroom, who lost the power of speech 21 years ago when his first wife divorced him, suddenly found his voice again at his wedding banquet with his new bride. (Reuters)

FARE EAST

SPECIAL FARES FROM SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Cebu & Singapore

£448

Kuala Lumpur & Singapore

£398

Lombok & Singapore

£448

Penang & Singapore

£398

Jakarta & Singapore

£448

Introducing Fare East from Singapore Airlines, plus

hotel stopovers from as little as £21 a night. These fares are valid between 4th August and 30th November.

Certain restrictions apply. Prices exclude taxes. For full information and reservations, call Singapore Airlines or see your local travel agent.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES



WHAT EVERY MAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PROSTATE PROBLEMS

by Dr B WILKX

In this ground-breaking new book, Dr Wilkx talks about the alternative medicine therapies he uses to treat his patients at his unique practice in Florida - and discusses the preventative measures he recommends for his patients wishing to protect themselves from suffering and surgery in the future.

This unique book gives the reader an in-depth account of the symptoms, relief remedies offered by both mainstream and alternative medicine, as well as an assessment of prostate surgery and the reliability of screening.

To order your copy (plus FREE membership to the Agora Health Institute), simply send your name, address and payment of £14.95 (includes P+P, cheques made payable to Agora Lifesystems, DEPT B10, FREEPOST NR3521, Edinburgh, EH4 0FX. Alternatively, ring 0500 523 499 for your 24-hour order line. You may return the book within three months for a full refund if you're not 100% delighted with the health information you receive.

Agora Lifesystems is a subsidiary of Fleet Street Publications Ltd.

© 1997 Fleet Street Publications Ltd. All rights reserved.



ceive £10
orth of free
ls today!

036 1997

The King's Memphis gets all shook up

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MEMPHIS

MEMPHIS has been an exceptionally bizarre place during this 20th Anniversary Week and can be best described as a cross between Lourdes and Disneyland, or Fatima and Butlin's. Thousands of people from all over the world, all dressed and coiffed identically, have been shuffling around the city in a happy stupor, medieval pilgrims in the Age of the Internet.

There are Elvises here from everywhere. This correspondent has met a "Viking Elvis" from Bergen in Norway; a group of "Elvis Bravehearts" from Glasgow; Australian Elvises, each with stuffed koala toys wearing sequined jumpsuits and hundreds and hundreds of Japanese Elvises. "Japan is the true home of the King," said Yuichi Takehana, from Sapporo.

The piece de resistance, however, and the man who

has attracted the most admiring glances, is a certain "Elvis Singh", a Sikh complete with headgear and long sideburns. To the delight of all, he croons: "I don't do drugs, I don't drink bourbon, all I wanna do is to shake my turban."

The animal kingdom stole the limelight from Elvis for a few hours yesterday after a nurse gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a dying chimpanzee in the emergency ward of a Methodist hospital.

Unlike Elvis, the anniversary of whose death will be marked by an outbreak of emotion today, the chimpanzee still lives. The simian is called Priscilla, the name of the King's wife, and the loonier elements here have lost no time in describing the episode as "a sign from Elvis".

Yesterday a spokesman for the First Presbyterian Church of Elvis the Divine said: "Priscilla the chimpan-

zee is Elvis's way of telling us that he's in Memphis today, sharing with us its air, heavy with the scent of the holy Mississippi River."

There are no black Elvises, however — not a single one. That this should be so in a city with a black majority is intriguing. But black faces have been conspicuous in their absence this week from Beale Street, downtown Memphis's central drag. There are black cooks in the restaurants — rustling up Elvis Gumbo, Presley chillies, Heartbreak Hotel ribs, Blue Suede chicken wings (spicy as mamma's) — and even some black waitresses and bands. But no black revellers, black men with quiffs, or black men in jumpsuits.

Elvis is regarded by most of Memphis's black people as a "white guy who stole our music". They do not resent him, of course, for he freely admitted his musical debts to

gospel and the blues. They are, quite simply, indifferent to him. "He's not ours," one old man said, shrugging his shoulders.

Some visitors this week have not only supped on Memphis's famed barbecue cuisine, they have also tasted the city's darker flavours. "Elvis tourists", identifiable from a mile away, have been carjacked at gunpoint. They have been mugged, robbed and assaulted, and the police are working overtime.

The most serious incident for the devotees, however, has not been criminal, but artistic. Hundreds of angry Elvises are picketing the gates of the Memphis College of Art, where the winner of a competition for a picture with an Elvis theme was a drawing called *Elvis eaten by ants*. One man said: "She's not a winner, she's a sinner. Didn't Elvis say, 'Don't be cruel'?"

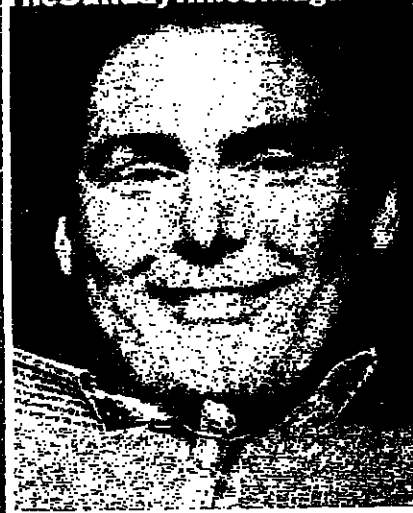
Leading article, page 19



The Graceliners, an all-female group, perform an impromptu Presley song outside Graceland, Elvis's home

THE SUNDAY TIMES

TheSundayTimesMagazine



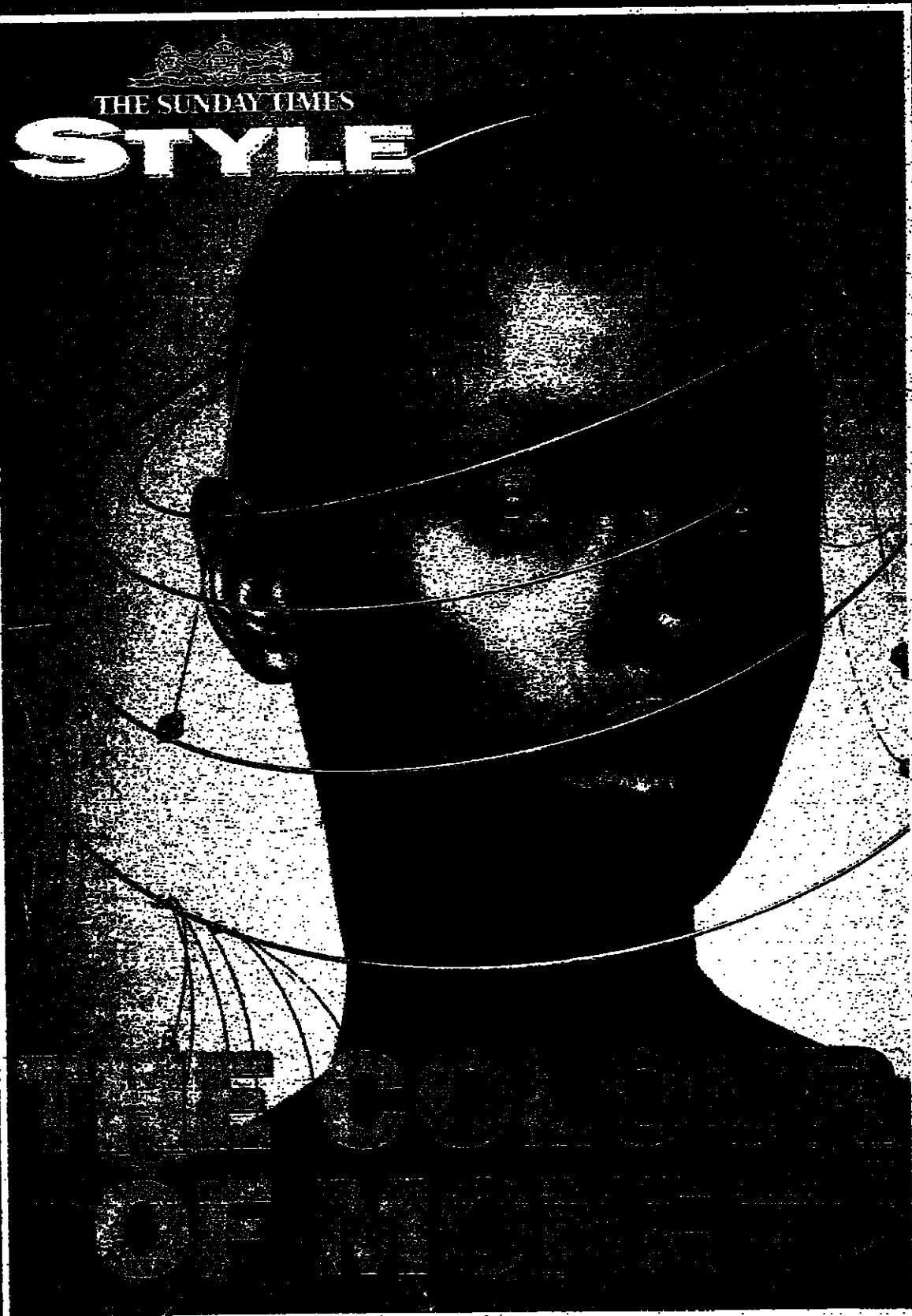
Why Christopher Reeve is smiling — and Britain should be angry



FREE 24-page guide to the top primary schools in Britain



Stephen Fry writes about Christ, rent boys and the importance of being Oscar Wilde



How the beauty world is jumping on the black bandwagon

ALSO TOMORROW

- A A Gill on the week's most immoral television shows
- To be funny, get personal, David Baddiel tells Lesley White
- Ferdinand Mount argues the case for shaming paedophiles

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Ethics storm builds over the Clintons' free holiday

FROM IAN BRIDIE IN WASHINGTON

A ROW was brewing yesterday over President Clinton's rent-free holiday at the home of a wealthy property developer who is seeking government approval for a controversial hotel project. White House officials defended the President, saying his holiday plans were perfectly innocent and no conflict of interest was involved. Others disagreed.

Mr Clinton will arrive tomorrow with Hillary and Chelsea for a three-week stay, the longest holiday of his presidency, at the secluded 19th-century farmhouse owned by Richard Vineyard. Local estate agents say the rental would be between \$10,000 and \$15,000 (£6,250 and £9,375).

Mr Friedman's company has been hired by a civic group to build a hotel on City Hall Plaza in Boston. The group has been negotiating with the General Services Administration (GSA), the Federal Government's landlord, over the shape and placing of the hotel. The GSA objects to the planned site because it would cast a shadow over the adjoining John F. Kennedy Federal Building and pose a security risk to law-enforcement agencies housed there.

The GSA administrator for Boston, Robert Dunley, said Mr Friedman "told me in so many words there'd be certain political pressure coming down on me if the GSA doesn't change its position". He said Mr Friedman did not mention names but had told him before about his ties to Mr Clinton.

Mr Friedman has known the President since the 1980s and was one of the Democratic Party's big contributors invited to stay the night in the Lincoln Bedroom at the White House. He said it was an

honour to have the First Family staying at his holiday home and the last thing he would ever think of doing would be to impose upon his friendship with Mr Clinton by discussing personal business affairs. Mike McCurry, White House spokesman, said just because someone has an issue pending with the Government does not exclude them from extending hospitality to the President in Washington, the non-partisan Centre for Responsive Politics said there was a huge potential for a conflict of interest. A spokeswoman said the Clintons made a practice of spending holidays in the homes of wealthy individuals. "Their hosts are not disinterested parties," she said.

Meanwhile, Mr Clinton said that Mrs Clinton would take a "leading role" in overseeing a new millennium project launched yesterday.

"The White House millennium project will guide and direct America's celebration of the millennium by showcasing the achievements that define us as a nation — our culture, our scholarship, our scientific exploration," he said.



The Clintons launching the millennium project

DeLorean stripped of his luxury estate

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JOHN DeLOREAN, the sports car maker still wanted in Britain after the collapse of his factory in Belfast, is to be stripped of his luxury estate in America and his collection of art and antiques. The action is being taken under a court ruling obtained by Mayer Morganroth, his long-time attorney and friend.

Mr Morganroth turned on his client over \$7.2 million (£4.5 million) in unpaid legal fees. The Michigan-based lawyer represented Mr DeLorean in some 40 cases, including the car company's bankruptcy, from 1982 to 1993. He was also involved in Mr DeLorean's acquittal on cocaine trafficking charges and his acrimonious divorce from the model Christine Ferrare.

Mr DeLorean, now 72, insisted that Mr Morganroth had overcharged him, and said the \$800,000 he had already paid in legal fees was sufficient.

But Judge Gilbert Merritt of the US district court in Cincinnati ruled on appeal on Thursday that Mr DeLorean must sell his personal assets to pay his legal bill.

The former high-flying executive, who made his name as the youngest chief of Chevrolet, lives on a sprawling farm in the horse country around Bedminster, New Jersey. His neighbours include Nicholas Brady, the former US Treasury Secretary, and Steven Forbes, the publisher and presidential hopeful.

Mr DeLorean, who told the court he had sold a \$50,000 Mercedes to pay his \$30,000 monthly mortgage, recently relinquished most of the 434-acre estate to Merrill Lynch Credit Corporation because of his unpaid debts.

Under that agreement, the remaining 45 acres and the Georgian mansion were to go to his son, Zachary, and his daughter, Kathryn.

Olympic for may

holiday home

Italians politician

life

cashback

0800 14

Green 'minority' sees red over plans to reconstruct city for Millennium and Games

Olympic test for mayor

AS THE fight between Athens and Rome for the 2004 Olympic Games enters the final straight, Francesco Rutelli, the elegant and photogenic Mayor of Rome, robustly dismisses those within his own Green Party who think a win for Rome would be a disaster. "I am not neurotic about criticism. But these people are in a minority. The Greens as a party have voted in favour of our plan for the Olympics — unanimously at the Rome level, and by a big majority at the national level."

Signor Rutelli's visionary plans for reconstructing Rome involve not only the Olympic Games but also — and more immediately — the Millennium, when Rome and St Peter's will be a natural world focus. But an alliance of environmentalists has mounted a "no" campaign, arguing that an ancient city like Rome

ROME FILE
by RICHARD OWEN

cannot cope with the expected influx and that "white elephant" projects have been created to line the pockets of Italian construction bosses. Signor Rutelli strongly denies he "has been seduced away from his Green principles by power. Still only 41, he was elected in 1993, when Italy's mayors were directly elected for the first time. He faces re-election in November. He appears confident, perhaps not only because of his record but also because his film star looks guarantee him a loyal following, especially among women. The

location of his office also inspires a sense of destiny: it overlooks Michelangelo's Campidoglio square on one side and the Roman Forum on the other. "My critics are right when they say I opposed bringing the Games to Italy in 1992," he says. "But that was during the 'Clean Hands' anti-corruption drive in Milan, when officials and businessmen were being jailed every day. It is very different now. If you are investing large amounts of public money, you have to be sure everything is above board."

Signor Rutelli maintains that only 15 per cent of the \$10 billion (£6.3 billion) Rome Olympic budget is going into new construction. "We already have most of the sports facilities. The money is being invested in transport, parks, infrastructure, renovation. It is not all concrete and cement. Big business will benefit in only a minimal way. Some works are inevitably disruptive. Rome's cobbled streets are being ripped up for the installation of 1,800 miles of fibre optic cable, and a new underground line is being built to link the Colosseum and the Vatican."



Signor Rutelli, whose modern vision for the historic capital has come under fire from environmentalists

The Olympic Village at Tor Vergata, campus of one of Rome's three universities, will benefit students, he says. "We have about 230,000 students, of whom 60,000 are from out of town, and we don't have places for them to sleep."

Sensitive to the charge that he had neglected Rome's drabber suburbs, he has staged a high-tech exhibition showing that almost 100 new parks have been carved out of derelict land, with disused factories turned into award-winning arts and community centres. "Modernisation is

not automatically a bad thing." But what about the charge that a planned traffic underpass beneath the Tiber embankment at the historic Castel Sant'Angelo is doomed because the diggers keep finding archaeological treasures?

Signor Rutelli drew me an instant sketch map. "They have found parts of the old bastions in a perfect state of conservation. But it's not a tragedy, we have the tunnelling technology to go deeper, beneath the river level. You see, very Green."

Exiled Prince's fate lies with MPs

IF ALL goes well, the exiled heir to the throne of Italy, Prince Victor Emmanuel, will be able to return to his homeland with his family next year. The Cabinet has approved a Bill allowing the House of Savoy to return for the first time since the 1946 referendum which ended the monarchy, provided the former Royal Family does not engage in politics.

The Bill still has to be passed by parliament, however, and Victor Emmanuel cannot seem to stop himself making remarks which inflame anti-monarchist feeling and endanger his chances of repatriation. He left as a child with his father, King Umberto II. Earlier this year the Prince observed that Mussolini's race laws had been "not so terrible". This week he angered Rome by publicly boasting that he had "entered Italian waters by 657 yards" when he made the short journey by yacht from his holiday villa in Corsica (which is French) to a point near the neighbouring island of Sardinia (which is Italian) to meet the mayor of the little Sardinian port of Santa Teresa di Gallura.

"What kind of King would Victor Emmanuel make?" asked *La Repubblica* in mock despair. *Corriere della Sera* pointed out that the exiled Prince had chosen the wrong place to gloat, since in the 1946 referendum 70 per cent of the citizens of Santa Teresa voted for the republic, even though most of Sardinia was royalist.

Lure of holiday homes

THIS weekend is Ferragosto, the traditional mid-August holiday when most of Italy simply shuts down. But as the heatwave takes hold, many Italians who would normally head for the beaches or the hills are staying at home. Although foreign tourists continue to pour into Tuscany and "art cities" such as Florence, hoteliers elsewhere rely on home-grown custom. Bookings at the seaside and in the mountain resorts are said to be down by 10 to 20 per

cent, as Italians feel the pinch of the centre-left Government's austerity drive, designed to help Italy to meet the Maastricht criteria for the single currency. Families may also be being put off by the lack of space on the beaches: according to La Stampa, Alassio on the Mediterranean Riviera offers 28cm per sunbather and San Remo 27cm. But for a roomy 600cm you have to go down the rugged coastline of the South, to Otranto.

German in BSE food plot jailed

Konstanz A German who tried to extort millions of marks from the Swiss Nestlé Maggi company by threatening to inject its food products with "mad cow" disease — Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy — was jailed for three years and two months yesterday.

Identified only as Rainer M, he said debts led him to crime this year. A court in this southern town gave his wife, Gabriele M, a one-year suspended sentence for her part in the plot.

German police are also investigating an extortion attempt on Thomy, another Nestlé company. It got a letter saying its products had been contaminated. (Reuters)

Italians queue up for politician's cash gift

Rome: Thousands of Italians queued for hours yesterday to receive free handouts of 50,000 lire (£17) from a maverick politician who is protesting at the use of taxpayers' money to finance political parties.

About 3,000 people waited all morning in sweltering heat in front of Rome's Campidoglio, or city hall, to receive a wad of cash from Marco Pannella's Radical Party, which handed out an estimated 150 million lire.

The cash was distributed in 10,000 lire notes stamped with the words: "This is part of the loot stolen from each citizen. The Radical Party has decided not to use this stolen money and to give it back. Put it to good use."

Under a law reintroduced this year after a two-year

hiatus, the Government has given 160 billion lire of tax revenues to political parties, distributed according to their size. Signor Pannella's party received 2.7 billion lire.

The law had been repealed by a referendum in 1993, largely because of public outrage over the Tangentopoli "Bribesville" scandals that exposed hundreds of politicians and businessmen involved in illegal party financing.

The Radical Party, which supports the independent financing of parties, wants to scrap the law again. "This is a day to remember, with Italians celebrating honest people and not those who steal," Signor Pannella said.

Last month he gave away £70,000 in northern Italy. (Reuters)

2 POOLS ENTRIES FOR ONLY 40p A WEEK!



Don't miss the chance to be a big winner with Vernons Pools. Just think what the win of a lifetime could mean to you — your dreams could come true, all for just 40p a week!

ENTER TODAY AND YOU COULD WIN A FORTUNE!

2 WEEKS FREE
PLAY
HERE

TO ENTER
FREEPHONE
0800 10 49 49

Quoting promotion code 88313 7 days a week 8am to 8pm

OR FREEPOST
THIS COUPON TO

Vernons Pools, Freepost, Park Lane, Liverpool, L68 1BB

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Vernons Pools is a trading name of Vernons Life Assurance Limited, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for life assurance and long-term investment. Vernons Pools is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).
YOUR RIGHT TO CONFIDENTIALITY
Occasionally we may provide your name and address and sometimes mode of payment to carefully selected companies for marketing purposes only. If you do not want us to do this, write to: Mailings Controller, Vernons Pools, Freepost, Park Lane, Liverpool L68 1BB.
Winning customers who prefer no publicity mark X here ☐
NOTICE FOR EXISTING PLAYERS
Please do not transfer this coupon to another person.

☐ YES! Please enter my numbers for my chance to win a fortune!

STEP 1 SELECT YOUR NUMBERS. Choose your entry of two sets of 10 numbers from 1 to 49 and place them in the entry columns. No number should be repeated. And remember, those numbers are entered every week for 26 weeks — including two weeks FREE!

STEP 2 CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO PAY. Total payment due is £9.60

EITHER ☐ I enclose a cheque or postal order
Please make your cheque/postal order payable to Vernons Pools and write your name and address on the back.
OR ☐ Charge £9.60 to my Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Switch/Delta Card
Please enter your Credit/Debit card number below.

Switch Issue Number ☐ Credit/Debit Card expiry date

Signature (I am over 16)

STEP 3 COMPLETE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode

Tel. No.

life insurance:
what's in it for you?

The warm feeling that your family is financially well protected if you die, but little else. Your life premiums look after their future, not yours.

The Cash-Back Term Assurance policy from Zurich Municipal is very different. It guarantees to return 50% of the premiums you've paid when the policy finally expires — providing you haven't.

50% cashback

And while this is a very welcome saving, it doesn't stop there. As a public sector employee, you will be entitled to a further privileged discount of 15% on the cost of your premiums during the whole term of the policy.

15% off

The Cash-Back Term Assurance policy from Zurich Municipal — full life cover if you die — 50% of your premiums back if you don't.

To get more out of your life insurance, call:

0800 147 147

Open: 9am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am-1pm Saturday.

For your security, all telephone calls on the above number will be recorded and randomly monitored. Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment.

Please give the reference: LTM1608

Zurich Municipal is a trading name of Zurich Life Assurance Limited, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority for life assurance and long-term investment. Zurich Life Assurance Limited is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). Zurich Life Assurance Limited is authorised in England No 076139 Regulated Office Zurich House, Lombard Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 1DU

ZURICH
MUNICIPAL
focusing on the public sector

VERNONS
POOLS
FOR A REAL SPORTING CHANCE

Marketing is the new rock'n'roll. Is that an original thought? If so, I have had two this year, and it's only August. But I digress. Marketing is the new rock'n'roll. It used to be comedy, but trendy comic folk are apparently so dumbstruck by the metaphysical infallibility of new Labour policy that they have renounced satire, at least for the duration of St Tony's Government.

Then poetry — poetry! — was hilariously acclaimed as the new rock'n'roll. After that it was food. I daresay that fortune-telling will now get the accolade, following Diana's impulsive dash to Mystic Meg of Derbyshire. And I am fairly sure that avant-garde sculpture, the sort involving pickled sheep or bodily functions (or preferably both at the same time), has also been hailed in recent months as the new rock'n'roll, if only by the dealers of the artists concerned. But that only proves what I said to begin with: Marketing is the new rock'n'roll.

A big hand for Mr Svengali, please

Precisely what is being marketed has ceased to matter. What fascinates people, what gives them a buzz and sends them home happy, is the knowledge that they have been hoodwinked by a really classy marketing trick. Marketing is now the preferred field of operation for the Napoleons of our era. So it isn't surprising that the brilliance of the marketing nearly always outshines the brilliance of the product being marketed.

These thoughts first struck me (for some inexplicable reason) during the general election campaign. They struck me again this week as I contemplated the faintly alarming spectacle of whole teams of reporters on excellent newspapers chasing the latest sighting of a new record by the pop group Oasis. "Good heavens," exclaimed a friend who is even less attuned to the Zeitgeist of 1997 Britain than I

am, if that is possible. "You've all fallen for a marketing stunt. You don't even know if the album is any good. Aren't you ashamed?"

Silly boy! The story is the marketing. Whether the album is any good is beside the point. We are acclaiming genius here, but the genius has nothing to do with music. It's the kind of genius that can reuse hundreds of newspapers, radio stations and TV companies with a dripfeed of tantalising snippets, until the (still unheard) album has acquired the sort of legendary aura usually reserved for weeping madonnas.

Some people worry that teenagers are being manipulated by such marketing sophistries. They shouldn't. Teenagers are quite capable of recognising hype for what it is — but they also relish it, when it is done well, just as everyone relishes a brilliant TV



RICHARD MORRISON

commercial. The problem is not that teenagers don't realise that they are being manipulated. On the contrary, the real danger is that they suspect that they are being manipulated all the time.

These days, youthful naivety disappears well before puberty.

That is surely why there has been such an increase in the number of youngsters doing "media studies". Most students are not naive. They know that a qualification in "media" isn't the first rung on a ladder leading inexorably to Paxman's chair on *Newsnight*. No, they choose to study "media" because they genuinely believe that if you grasp the workings of the press, radio and television — and the wily crafts of manipulation and marketing exercised through these channels — you hold the key to modern life.

Well, nobody doubts that the arts need good marketing. But these days the tail too often wags the dog. Marketing departments

literally call the tune. We all know about Hollywood movies having their denouements altered (long after they are ostensibly "in the can") at the dictate of the studio's marketing department and the all-powerful "focus groups". But now books, musicals, TV series, sporting events, pop groups and even some newspapers are increasingly fashioned according to commands from omnipotent marketing gurus. We live in a Svengali heaven.

Inevitably, the dangerous edge is rubbed off art created under such conditions. Worse, there is an impatience about art that doesn't easily fit into the soundbite culture preferred by the marketers: serious plays or symphonies, for example. But as we savour the insouciant sweep of a great marketing campaign, a little thing like the actual quality of the

item being hyped is the last thing on our minds. We buy the album as an endorsement of the brilliant marketing, not the product.

And by the time the critics get their say (those who haven't already been wined and dined in euphoria) their reviews are irrelevant. "Sentences first — verdict afterwards!" cried Lewis Carroll's Queen, and in our own topsy-turvy wonderland the dispassionate critical verdict is also the last thing anybody wants to hear.

One day, no doubt, the historians will survey our Faddish Nineties and say: "Great marketing, shame about the art." But I can't get too annoyed about the current spate of Oasis fever engineered by Alan McGee's Creation Records. I know that I am witnessing a master at work, and I don't mean Noel Gallagher. Incidentally, I see that new Labour has now recruited McGee to serve on the new "task force" set up to revolutionise our cultural life. Clearly, running the country is going to be the new rock'n'roll.

Pure Russian magic

THURSDAY'S visit by Valery Gergiev and his Kirov Orchestra was one of the Prom season's hottest tickets, and still it surpassed expectations. London is lucky to have the conductor as a regular visitor, but hearing him with the musicians he has honed over the years is a special experience rare in a world of itinerant maestros and interchangeable orchestras.

Gergiev also brought three remarkable singers with him from the Kirov Opera, to give a thoroughly Russian performance of Shostakovich's orchestral song-cycle *From Jewish Folk Poetry*. Incidentally,

BBC PROMS

Kirov Orchestra
Gergiev
Albert Hayday

this important score had not been heard at the Proms before, but then it is something of a rarity everywhere. It was conceived as a protest against Stalin's treatment of the Jews, but could not be premiered until after the dictator's death.

The outward simplicity of the cycle hides a bundle of enigmatic contradictions: after the bleakness of the opening song, no listener could take the Soviet-style optimism of the final numbers seriously. Gergiev caught the essence of the work in a very slow account of the utterly hopeless *Lullaby*, with the gently rocking lines given full meaning by Larissa Diadkova. Her coppery contralto was matched by Marina Shaguch's perfectly-centred soprano, and Evgeny Akinov was the plaintive tenor soloist.

The rest of the programme displayed the orchestra's tonal colours. It opened with Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* fantasy overture, and as the instrumental layers built up, one marvelled at the individuality of the woodwinds, the fully rounded sound of the trombones, the unique "buzz" of the cellos, but most of all the discipline and precision of the soft playing; these players are the current keepers of St Petersburg's patrician musical tradition.

Hunched and writhing almost demonically, Gergiev shaped a spacious but passionate performance full of tension. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* is much more than a showpiece, and Gergiev conducted it with thrilling sweep. But its stories were evoked in bright colours, and the quality of the orchestra's soloists, not only the flexible first violin but also the distinctive oboe and bassoon, shone through.

JOHN ALLISON



Cheryl Campbell as Arkadina and Duncan Bell as Trigorin in Stephen Unwin's overblown production of Chekhov

Assaulted by birdsong

THEATRE

The Seagull
Donmar

Chekhov's first attempt to find a new form for the theatre was famously misunderstood at its first production, by actors and audience alike, and only when Stanislavsky directed it two years later did it become a success. But a programme note by Stephen Mulrine, translator of the version being used here by English Touring Theatre, reveals an astonishing detail about the play's early history.

It seems that Stanislavsky, who also played Trigorin, was never entirely at ease with the play, and after Chekhov's death in 1904 *The Seagull* was dropped from the repertoire of the Moscow Art Theatre until 1960. This means that for more than half a century, and continuing long after Stanislavsky's death, this crucial play was ignored by the company which nonetheless used a flying seagull as its image. A daunting example of inertia and schizophrenia staggering down the decades hand in hand.

Stephen Unwin's production, though attractive in several details, nonetheless hits us in the eyeball and the eardrum in a manner that Stanislavsky's first actors, al-

ways prone to overemphasis, might have relished. Cheryl Campbell's Arkadina almost chokes herself into a coma when her brother suggests she provide a little money for her son. Though her family background is modestly grand — Sorin, her brother, is a retired judge — she could give lessons in vulgarity to any fishwives scattered around the lake, screaming "Kostya, darling!" to her son in a voice that curdles the blood.

The intention must be to present Arkadina as a flamboyant thespian of the old school, prone to giving just the sort of unsuitable performances on the Kharkov stage that Kostya (and Chekhov) detested. But the production as a whole picks up this coarseness, and the outbursts of savage rage that Campbell gives us work against other elements of the play.

Likewise, Christopher Good's Dorn hurls his lines at people as vigorously as he propels Masha's snuff-box

into the shrubbery. There is no need to force the words across in this way. Less is not just more but, truly, the only good way.

Nina has to be callow and calf-eyed until the last act, but Joanna Roth surprisingly brings aggression to her early scene with Kostya. At the same time, and not simply because of the style of dress, her otherwise rapt ingenueness turns her into Dorothy on the road to Oz.

Mark Bazeley (Kostya), eyes flashing from his pale and haunted face, valiantly coped with a knee injury that has obliged him to walk with a crutch, but Unwin could have ignored the stage direction that requires Arthur Cox's Sorin to lean on a walking-stick. Their first entry together became distractingly comic. Most in keeping with Chekhov's declared wishes is Duncan Bell's Trigorin, quiet, even withdrawn in manner, but whose faint Scottish burr poignantly conveys the beauty of the lake he is obliged to leave. Otherwise, this is not a production to allow the play's power to steal furtively into the heart.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The ostrich and Co second that emotion

WHEN the Verve disbanded acrimoniously in late 1995, they had never touched the celestial heights they had always talked of reaching. But early this year, after repairing the rift between singer Richard Ashcroft and guitarist Nick McCabe, the Wigan-born quintet re-formed and rediscovered their hunger to be the best band in Britain. Encouraged by the friendship and patronage of Oasis, these northern souls resolved once again to try to make rock shows not just transcendent but almost religious experiences.

To judge by advance word of this tour, which sold out instantly, the band are already in godlike form. At Wolverhampton's Civic Hall, they certainly proved themselves ready to reach for the stars once more. Ashcroft, an emaciated human scarecrow with a serial killer stare, danced barefoot on an oriental rug placed centre stage. Gyrating his wiry limbs while bent double like a constipated ostrich, he made an unlikely rock icon. But as soon as his colleagues got into their roar-

POP

The Verve
Wolverhampton

ing, anthemic flow, the singer's eccentric and edgy presence made perfect sense.

The set was heavily weighted with new songs from the band's forthcoming third album, *Urban Hymns*, and all the better for being so. Old tunes such as *This Is Music* still retained an undeniable grandeur, but several others simply underlined just how shapeless and self-indulgent much of the band's early output was, especially Ashcroft's blankly declamatory lyrics.

The newer material proved not only more tightly structured but far more engagingly emotive. For the love-lorn lament *On Your Own*, Ashcroft strapped on an acoustic guitar and swapped his pugilistic swagger for something approaching vulnerability. He then crooned the band's new single *Drugs Don't Work*, like a man hum-

bled into submission by his broken heart. Although the performance was slightly clumsy, this stirring ballad already sounds like one of the year's best singles.

This shift towards more focused tunes with stronger emotional hooks has undoubtedly been the key to transforming the band from cult heroes to mainstream contenders. Even so, the Verve are still probably not quite the electrifying spectacle that they think they are, and there were a few flat moments during their Wolverhampton show which no amount of messianic posturing could salvage. Still, a little overblown self-importance has always been crucial to bands as godlike and individual as this.

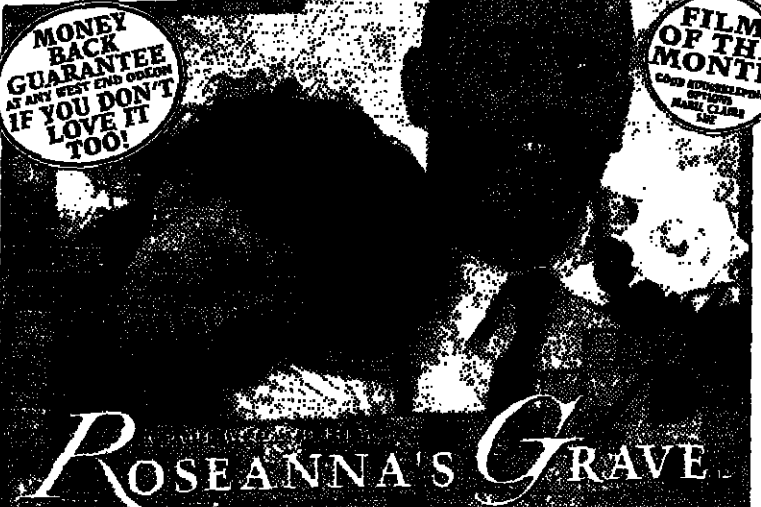
And when they rounded off the night with the sampled orchestral flourishes of their magnificent, grandly operatic comeback single, *Bitter Sweet Symphony*, it was hard not to be swept along by the crashing melodrama of it all. Constipated ostriches or not, the Verve are heading for greatness.

STEPHEN DALTON

"YOU'LL LOVE IT TO DEATH...MADE MY HEART ACHE, MY EYES WEEP AND MY BELLY LAUGH...WHAT MORE CAN YOU ASK FROM A MOVIE?" ★★★★★ THE DAILY MIRROR

"This is a brilliant film and you'll laugh until you cry"

NEW WOMAN

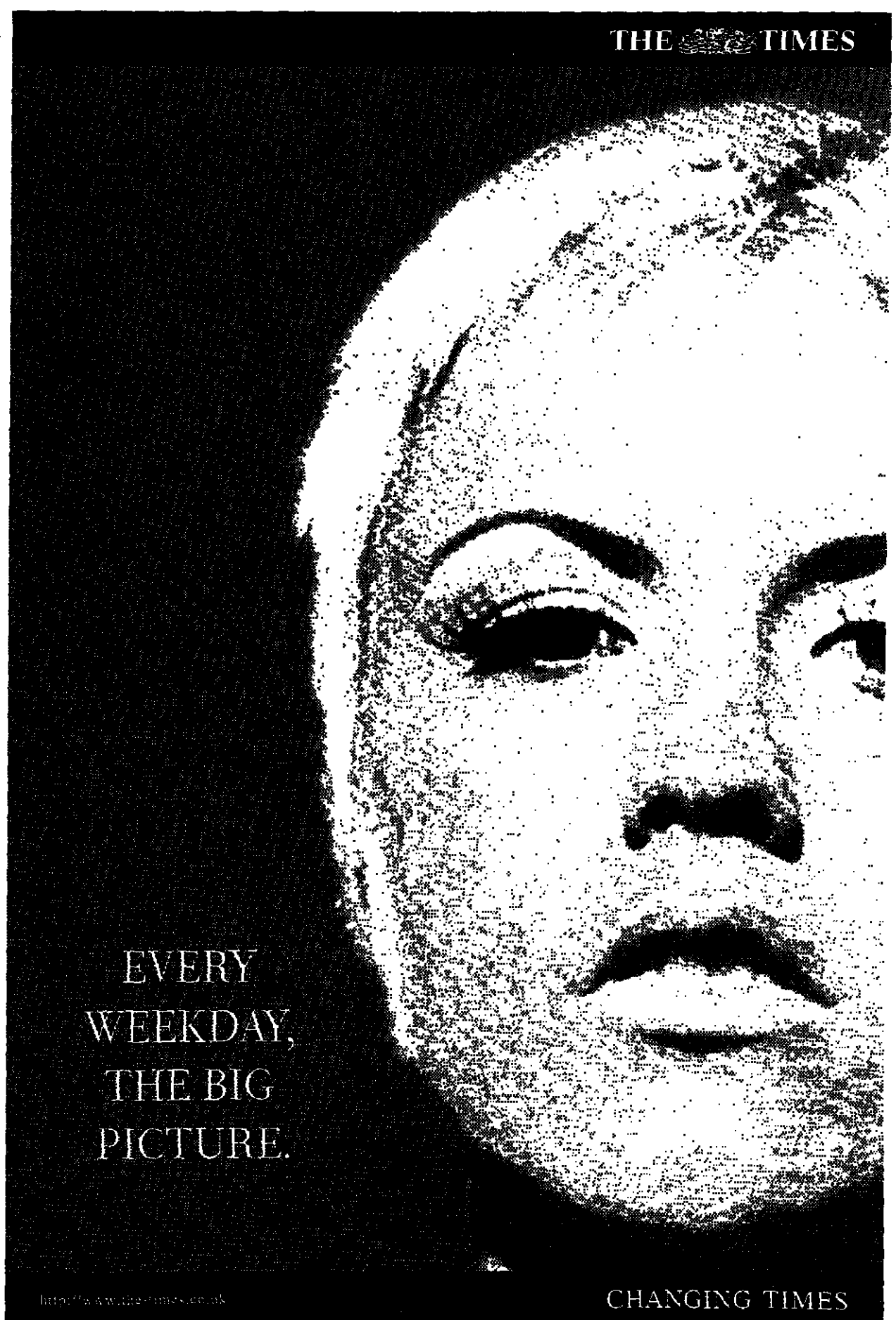


ROSEANNA'S GRAVE

"A life affirming comedy to see after a bad day at the office"

ELLE

NOW SHOWING AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AUGUST 22



EVERY WEEKDAY, THE BIG PICTURE.

CHANGING TIMES

Must the poor pay the price of victory?

Roy Hattersley finds Mandelson a dubious salesman for Labour

These days the most important Labour speeches are always preceded by a judicious leak which whets the appetite of the waiting world. So news that the Prime Minister is to lead a task force which will examine the causes of and cures for "social exclusion" was broad-cast long before Peter Mandelson made the speech which described the initiative.

Hoping that social exclusion was a way of describing poverty without antagonising the middle classes, I rejoiced to hear the preview of what the Minister without Portfolio was going to say. How, and by whom, the announcement was made seemed far less important than the announcement itself. Then I read the full text of the Fabian Summer Lecture. Sometimes the medium really is the message.

Working parties are created either to bide time or to make progress. For the next month or two, all questions and complaints about the Government's poverty programme will be met by the assurance that the problems of the poor are being investigated. No body can complain about that — even though every moderately competent social worker could produce a list of urgent needs that a compassionate government would meet without delay. The real question — which must be asked about every working party, task force and departmental inquiry — is whether or not it is more than a protection against the accusation of inactivity. In both language and content, Mr Mandelson's lecture was depressingly superficial. Until the new unit promises specific action, there will be fears that the assault on exclusion will be similarly facile.

Mr Mandelson attacks as inadequate the demand for "the redistribution of cash from rich to poor" which others artificially choose as their own limited vision of egalitarianism. No one who has criticised the Government's poverty programme has ever suggested that income redistribution is in itself enough. Of course the causes of poverty have to be addressed. But while the long-term remedies are working through, thousands of families — some of whom can never benefit from the Welfare to Work programme — are living below the poverty line. No minister has provided a convincing explanation of why they are not offered immediate help. Mr Mandelson deals with the question like a door-to-door salesman whose merchandise is obviously second-rate. He talks quickly about something else and attacks his competitors for deficiencies which he has invented.

Naturally enough, the Minister without Portfolio spent Thursday trumpeting his public relations triumph. His response to cross-examination undermined confidence in the initiative even more. Asked about the Government's policy on retirement pensions, he insisted that the Government would "stand by" the elderly.

Mr Mandelson — who, on the *World at One*, had announced his enthusiasm for philosophy — may care to ask himself what used to be called "the philosopher's question": How does standing by the

pensioners differ from not standing by them? The best answer he could give yesterday was the assertion that the basic pension had been increased in line with inflation.

A second "philosopher's question" immediately arises. How does Labour's policy on the basic pension differ from the Tory alternative that was so bitterly criticised before the election? Once upon a time, the answer was obvious. Pensions, Labour promised, would be increased in line with improvements in average earnings. But new Labour regards that as too generous.

The Minister without Portfolio was asked outright if there was any prospect of improving benefit levels for the disabled, the chronically sick and the growing number of pensioners to whom the assault on the root causes of poverty would offer nothing. Perhaps, he answered, when the economic conditions allowed. It is hard to imagine a more propitious moment to increase taxes by (say) two per cent, use half of the income to improve living standards below the poverty line and — by taking the rest out of commercial circulation — dampen down the overheated economy without industrially damaging increases in interest rates. To talk as if there were an economic case against increasing benefits is so patently absurd that it adds to the belief that poverty is only an item on the public relations agenda.

That fear is certainly deepened by the constant emphasis on "exclusion" — a weak concept which can be defined in any way which is convenient — rather than "poverty", which can be described, measured and identified. Exclusion, Mr Mandelson told us, is "about being cut off from what the rest of us call normal life". Nothing is more likely to create that unhappy condition than continual poverty.

Single parents — whose benefit supplement is to be abolished by the Labour Government — will not feel more included in society at large when their purchasing power is dragged further below the national average. They need real money in their hands and they need it now. That can only be achieved by a conscious policy of income redistribution. The first step towards doing what is right by the underprivileged is an honest description of their problem. They are poor. Fancy explanations will not help them. A moderate redistribution of income certainly would.

Tessa Jowell, the Minister of Public Health, recently gave an admirably honest explanation of why the poor must remain in poverty. Labour's promise not to increase income tax had been necessary to win the election and could not be broken now. The paradox is breathtaking. The disadvantaged and the dispossessed voted Labour because they believed the party would lift them out of poverty. Now, they have to pay the price of victory. Please God, when the Prime Minister gets back from his holidays, he will say something sensible about poverty and his exclusion task force. Then I can rejoice again at its creation.



Power to the pupils

A-level students rightly prefer 'soft' subjects to dry and useless sciences

Excellent news from the scholastic front. The reactionary armies are in retreat. The youthful forces of choice and common sense are advancing. Pupils across the land are defying the political correctness of their elders and opting for liberty.

August is the month when the British nation goes innominate — not its schoolchildren but its teachers, commentators and politicians. Thursday saw the John Paton memorial contest for state schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. (Scottish competition is considered too tough to risk.) The result is the usual nonsense. "Best" schools are like heavyweight boxers. The best depends on which system you follow. In *The Times*, the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe won. In *The Daily Telegraph*, Chelmsford County High came top. *The Independent* gave its palm to Malvern's Chase High. Each used different criteria and the tables bore little relation to each other. So much for objective quantification.

More inane is the response to the results themselves. These days nobody over 40 can bring himself to admit that young people might be getting clever. Having made A-levels the rock on which British education would be rebuilt, conservatives now deplore "A-level inflation", with A and B passes rising some 30 per cent in ten years. They assert, on no evidence but hearsay, that this cannot be right. When a statistic gives good news about the young it must be faulty.

This year grades rose overall by another 1.3 per cent. The best reason is the obvious one. Lazy universities are now selecting students almost entirely on A-level grades. Lazy inspectors are measuring schools on the same basis. The result is that both pupils and teachers are devoting more effort to improving grades. Education for 15 to 18-year-olds in most schools now concentrates on league table rankings. All this tells us is that if higher grades are what you want, higher grades you will get. It is the policy equivalent of packing an athlete full of steroids. Performance will rise, if you do not care about the side-effects. We still have no idea which schools are really better, which pupils are brighter or whether the economy is fitter as a result.

Yet we do know something more encouraging. Despite the dictatorship of the league table, pupils enjoy choice of A-level subject. For most of

them, this is the first big decision of their career. Up to 16 there is virtually no curriculum option, given the highly centralised GCSE syllabus. After 16 the reverse applies. The university admissions cartel has all but collapsed, and with it the demand for a homogeneous portfolio of A-level subjects. Sixth-formers have reacted by spreading their wings. They have turned their backs on dull subjects pressed on them by parents and teachers, and opted for ones they see as useful in their careers.

The chief casualties have been maths and science A levels, which have seen ten years of relative decline. This week's report in *The Times* was bald: "Pupils desert traditional subjects." Art and design has now overtaken physics in A-level popularity. Business studies and sociology are now attracting as much interest as chemistry. Although maths and physics picked up marginally last year, they still appeal to a falling percentage of pupils. More are taking computing, media studies, psychology and physical education. Science occupies just 17 per cent of the total of papers sat.

This indicates that one of the biggest ever exercises in educational engineering, the "science first" policy of the 1980s, has failed. The Thatcher and Major Governments tried to force ever more pupils into science up to the age of 16. There were science weeks, science prizes, science salary increments.

I hope someone audits this fiasco. The Tory Government could never bring itself to abandon socialist planning. Ministers incanted, year after year, that Britain "needed" more scientists. There was no evidence for this statement. If pay is the measure of professional demand, scientists other than doctors are now in severe over-supply compared to almost all other professions. Yet such is the political correctness in education that, if I wrote that schools would best serve their pupils by turning out more lawyers, accountants, market-

ing executives and cooks, I would be excoriated. (I write it nonetheless.) To compound the error, this Government now intends to charge the same fee for a science course as for an arts one, expecting popular arts degrees to cross-subsidise unpopular science ones. This is the manpower planning of the madhouse.

At least the pupils are staying sane. They know what stimulates and motivates them to learn, and what will help them to find a job. I wonder how many readers of this article could name a young person now entering a career in which a maths or science degree is prerequisite. The answer is very few. Pupils know this. They are preferring A-level courses that are likely to help them get a job, while still stimulating their interest in the world about them and challenging their imagination. Within the sciences, biology is understandably most popular. Nor are the favoured courses necessarily utilitarian. Art, design and English are booming.

At this point in the argument, the reactionaries wheel out their two favourite hobbyhorses. First, they protest that irrelevant subjects are important since they "train the mind". This hokum reminds me of Arnold of Rugby's stipulation that French should never be spoken by his pupils. It could be taught only "grammatically as a dead language". His job was to impart "not knowledge but the means of gaining knowledge". Lytton Strachey wrote that Arnold could not face the possibility that he had wasted his career on Latin and Greek. Yet his sophistry condemned a century of pupils to years wasted acquiring mountains of soon forgotten knowledge. There is no reason why a mind cannot be trained usefully.

The second hobbyhorse holds that so-called relevant subjects, whether at sixth form or university, are a "soft option". In other words, today's young are skiving. Yet law, economics and politics are hard subjects. So too are business, sociology and

design. They are only soft if taught soft, which is the fault not of the content but of its education. English is not generally regarded as soft, yet it is the most popular A-level of all. I detect here another of Arnold's precepts, that the academic version of a good whipping is the only way of ensuring "simplicity, sobriety and humbleness of mind".

Common sense about the curriculum is largely confined to pupils. The fanaticism of the maths and science lobby is similar to that of Arnold's classicists. Parents and teachers, many of them liberal in other respects, hold that "what was good enough for me is good enough for him". Most hypocritical is the educational Right. It believes in choice of schools, yet not of curriculums. It preaches personal choice, yet cries with the pack that "Britain needs more scientists". For a decade under the Tories, the Education Department poured out tens of thousands of unemployed scientists. The only reason appears to be atavistic science was somehow seen as clean, objective, unfuzzy, conservative — though at its most exciting it is anything but.

By now the reader is screaming that I cannot treat science this way. Science has become like ethnic minorities and the disabled, in need of positive discrimination. It has had that discrimination for at least a decade. Students are deserting science courses. They see which employers queue up for the brightest graduates at careers fairs. The overselling of science has spread teaching too thin, demotivated teachers and deterred pupils. Anyone can look at this week's Ucas listings and see science and engineering places going begging at all but the most exclusive universities. You need only C grades to do engineering at Edinburgh, and E grades will do at Exeter or Salford.

If I was a scientist I would plead with the Government to reverse its policy and cut science numbers drastically. I would not want to be the lame duck of education. My spokesmen special-pleading at every turn. I would want to be holding my own in the market. British education post-16 has come of age. It is starting to know what the world wants of it. Next time the Government ponders a reform, it should listen to the customers. Those customers are not parents. They are pupils. Each August they show us their wisdom.

Simon Jenkins

Into battle

THE foot soldiers at the Ministry of Defence are digging in for what could be a lengthy war of attrition with top brass. The cause of the stand-off is the MoD's own in-house monthly lottery. There is suspicion of political manoeuvres to limit the size of payouts.

The lottery has been a rip-roaring success with up to 30,000 members of staff buying tickets each month. The result is that the jackpot now stands at £10,000 and

still the recreational association that runs it has more cash than it knows what to do with. A plan to increase the jackpot to £20,000 seemed to have the approval of the department's top mandarins.

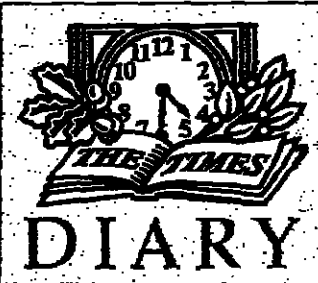
Then it didn't. Word came down that an increase would not be appropriate and the talk in the canteen is that George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, had expressed disapproval that lowly members of staff would gamble away their meagre incomes.

"There is no plan to increase the first prize," says a spokeswoman. "If there was it would be nothing to do with the Secretary of State."

One wonders what Robertson, a decent if dour Scot, would make of the parties thrown by previous jackpot winners. "One went on until security staff threw them out at 2am," says a senior suit.

Red letter day

BORIS YELTSIN will be glowing with pride this weekend. His 17-year-old grandson, Boris Jr, has got an A grade at A level while still in the lower sixth at Millfield School, Somerset. Critics might



suggest that it would have been embarrassing if he hadn't. The subject was Russian. Boris Okulov, who arrived at the public school last year sporting an upper lip of fine glasnost bum-fluff, will have plenty of chums to celebrate with. Eight Russians sat the exam and all got As.

● A question mark appears above the relationship between pop's biggest hype merchants, Oasis, and Alan McGee, the head of Creation Records who discovered them. McGee, says he wants to buy a Scottish football club. Stranger still, he says he prefers footballers to rock stars. "I like them more because there's a humility about them. Most musicians think they're Dylan. But most of them are like Dylan off The Magic Roundabout," he tells *Four* magazine.

Hot stuff

SPARE a thought for Mahatma's grandson Gopal Krishna Gandhi as Independence Day celebrations get into full swing. The Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, where his grandfather spent much time, yesterday darted between talk shows in Johannesburg before racing to a flag-raising ceremony in Pretoria, then on to a hot plane to a reception in Durban with the city's large Indian community. Next to Cape Town for another knees-up with South African VIPs. "Just the three receptions with food, music and dancing," an embassy official said. Finally, back to Pretoria to greet a dance troupe from India. Like his grandpa, he is not one to do things by halves.

● A correction from the Press Association regarding a story about Phillip Croker, the swot who got seven A grades at A level: "...please read in final par 'his place at Magdalen College, University of Oxford...' substituting 'Magdalen' for 'Maudlin'."

Grave error

HOT FOOT from the Plain English Campaign comes news that

John Humphrys, Radio 4's rum-bustious broadcaster, has won a "Foot in Mouth" award for his performance during an interview with the Australian High Commissioner on the Today programme yesterday.

Humphrys asked Neal Blewett about the removal of the head of Yagan, the Aboriginal warrior, buried in a Liverpool grave, which is to be returned to Australia.

Blewett said that some small infants were buried above the head's grave and, after advice from archaeologists, it was decided to enter the grave "from the side, through paupers' graves". Humphrys stopped. "Wait a minute, I'm puzzled — the idea of burying porpoises?" A pause, and Blewett said: "Paupers."

Model flat

WHILE Michael Caine is returning to these shores, his daughter, Natasha, is shipping out to pursue her modelling career in the US and selling her one-bedroom flat in The Village, Battersea, for a reputed £500,000.

Enate agents Douglas and Gordon claim they have already had inquiries, but prospective buyers should be aware that neighbours include Viscount Linley, Bob Geldof and Spice Girl, Mel B.



Natasha: on the move

● Dodi Al Fayed did not perhaps astonish tutors at the exclusive Le Rosey School in Switzerland with his intellectual gifts. Neither did he quite master the art of the schoolboy excuse. A friend recalls that the school secretary once received a phone call on the first day of term from someone with a gruff voice explaining that Dodi would be a few days late back to school because he was a little poorly. "Oh, yes?" said the secretary. "And to whom am I speaking?" The gruff voice said: "This is my father."

Philip Howard



Grammar can be glamorous, but writing by rote is rotten

Grammar is too modest a subject for politicians. Compulsory tests of sloppy English for teenagers have been halted, while curriculum advisers carry out a fundamental review of English testing. So here is an exam to help them. For Neanderthal crusties, grammar is simple rules to be beaten in by rote and rod: the Gods of the Copybook Headings.

1. "Grammar" is derived (irregularly and semi-learnedly) from the Greek words for "the art of alphabetical characters". So how did Sir Walter Scott derive "glamour" from the same source? Grammar is glamorous — discuss.

2. Number in grammar means not getting your singulars and plurals in a twist. Will all those pedants who wrote in to gloat about the headline "Trivia of parish life blocks the message" in last Saturday's *Times* please "correct" the number of the following: there is no news; your stamina is strained; the agenda is too long; albums and conundrums; octopi and ignorami. Rewrite Paul: "The Wages of Sin Is Death."

3. "Few" is for countables, like (such as) cabbages and kings. "Less" is for uncountables, such as (like) sugar and spice. So rewrite in "correct" grammar the following sentences: "My house is less than five miles from the station. So it takes less than 15 minutes in a taxi, and costs less than £5." How many miles to Sodor? Less than a thousand. How many innocent men in Sodor? Fewer than ten.

4. The hippy cried out "Like, Help!" while drowning. That was the impredication of Beat Talk. Another cast-iron grammatical rule is that "like" must be avoided in conjunctional uses, as in "she behaved like she was drunk". Now correct the slogan "X tastes good like a cigarette should." And while you are at it, correct Shakespeare ("Like an arrow shot from a well experienced Archer hits the mark his eye doth level at"), Jerome K. Jerome ("Dad Robinson, Crusoe wear trousers! I forget. Or did he go about like he does in the pantomime?"), Southery, Newman, Darwin, Morris and other "writers of standing". Which is worse: to be wrong with Shakespeare or right with Professor Fawcett?

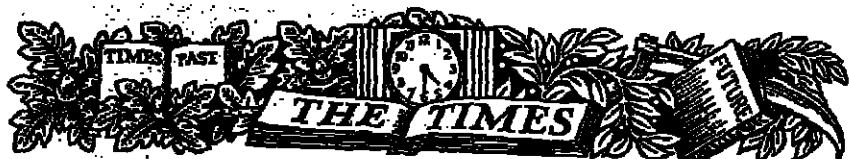
5. A good judge should be disinterested, but never uninterested in his case. Nor be so bold as to rewrite John Donne ("Case wherein the party is disinterested"), and James ("A careless disinterested spirit is no part of his character"). The grammar of good writers of the past is not necessarily a guide to contemporary writing. But it shows that grammar is a rolling river, not commandments on tablets of stone. The grammar of ferocious pedants is always a generation out of date.

6. Thou shalt never split an infinitive. The Romans didn't, so why should you? But the Latin infinitive was one word *amare*, whereas English has two words "to love". And Romans did on occasion split an infinitive for effect, in the rhetorical device called *anastrophe*. The classic example is Ennius, who split not an infinitive but a brain. *Saxo cere-comminuit-brain*. "With a rock his cere-brain he comminuted-brain." Some split infinitives cannot be avoided without replanning the sentence. "He was ashamed to so much as mention it to his wife." "The men are declared to strongly favour a strike." The only reason for obeying the fetish of not splitting an infinitive is that it will spare you impertinent abuse from ignorant pedants.

7. Amend into correct grammar: "That's him! Our Mutual Friend, I wish I could play like you do! Has he got a temperance? You are meticulous. Speculation is still rife as to whom will lead the England 'Whom' is fading away, as the inflections of nouns in Old English have gone. Nobody says 'whom' except in funeral addresses or when trying to be hypercorrect. 'Between you and I.' 'Whom' has sat too long here for any good who have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with whom.

8. Writing and speaking precisely, in order to convey one's exact meaning with the right words, are finest arts. Grammar is glamorous. But grammar was made for and by man, not man for grammar. It is best taught to infants from the earliest age. That is what turns them into adults. And we carry on learning and changing grammar for the rest of our lives. To "learn" it by rules is as stupid as studying design without the objects of design, or as learning to drive by taking the engine to bits.

P.H.S



BORDERLINE GRADE

Education policy must reconcile excellence and expansion

In the brief interlude between A-level and GCSE results the performance of the examination system needs scrutiny. The Dearing report was one more element in what has been a period of extraordinary upheaval in education. The O level and CSE have been merged, the A level has evolved and polytechnics have transformed themselves into universities. The proportion of all schoolchildren entering higher education has increased from barely 12.5 per cent to nearly three times that. It is, however, far from clear that these changes leave students, or the nation, better served.

The introduction of the GCSE a decade ago has proved the most important innovation. The provision of one single test has encouraged 80 per cent or more of 16-year-olds to stay on at school. For a majority in this age group, the GCSE is a better qualification than the old CSE. However, the O level was more stretching for the brightest students. Quality has been diluted for the sake of a universal formula.

The sharp difference in style between the GCSE and A level makes the former rather poor preparation for the latter. That should logically have led to a decline in the pass rate at A level, but the opposite has happened. The explanations offered are illuminating. The best schools are teaching their pupils in an A-level style from the age of 14. The GCSE is regarded as a distraction which headmasters feel obliged to recognise largely to satisfy parental expectations. The proliferation of new subjects, along with the increased resort to modular exams, has allowed A-level boards to make the adjustment from GCSE much easier. More students may acquire certificates, but at what cost in excellence?

The abolition of the distinction between universities and polytechnics has had a similar impact to the fusion of O-levels and CSEs, but with an important difference. The

decision had many virtues and was probably inevitable. Some polytechnics had an academic record to rival that of traditional universities but suffered from an artificial disparity of status. The emergence of a single sector has challenged old cultures. Many universities have emerged the stronger for the competition — it is the former polytechnics that have lost out. Many of these "new" universities have shed valuable vocational courses in favour of dubious new degrees and yet have still not secured the esteem they wanted.

If experience teaches anything, it should suggest considerable caution when considering proposals to reform the A level. In theory, there is much in the argument that the examination is at present rather narrowly constructed. There is something to be said for broadening education between the ages of 16 and 18 through a supplementary emphasis on literacy, numeracy and information technology. A revamped and rigorous AS level followed in the first year of sixth-form study would have much to commend it. An "English baccalaureat" that extended rather than amended the A level would be worth exploration. The fear based on past practice is that such a shift would disguise another slip in standards.

The Government can allay concerns if it deals with the current defects in the examination system. The academic quality of A levels would be reinforced by much stricter regulation of the modular method. The introduction of applied A levels, as recommended by Sir Ron Dearing, would do much to restore the vocational element. In the medium term it might well be asked whether the GCSE still has a role in an era when the effective school-leaving age has ceased to be 16. The principles of excellence and expansion are not inherently incompatible. They must be reconciled if our students are to receive the best possible education.

CRACKING THE DRUG TRADE

Colombia needs help in curbing the deadly flow

The decision by Colombia's Supreme Court to reject the challenge to the law mandating the seizure of assets acquired with drug money is a brave step. In fighting the source that has all but overwhelmed it, the Colombian Government and the courts have been held at gunpoint, often all too literally, by the formidable powerful drug barons and those they have bought, suborned and intimidated. The present law, passed in December after strong pressure from Washington, is one of the most effective ways of depriving traffickers of their gains, and has already led to the confiscation of banks, businesses, ranches, farms and huge tracts of land. The drug interests, seeing the loss of millions of dollars-worth of laundered profits, challenged the law on the ground that it violated the right to private property. To its credit, the court has refused to give in.

President Samper's term in office has been dogged by the accusation that drug interests funded his campaign. Having won his battle against impeachment, however, he has now pursued the campaign against the narcotics trade with vigour. He has little alternative. Drugs have all but destroyed one of the oldest democracies in Latin America. In the past decade more than 20,000 people, including judges, journalists and policemen, have been killed in the drugs war. Colombia has one of the highest murder rates in the world. Last year the fight against narcotics cost the State \$2.1 billion — almost as much as the money brought into Colombia by the drugs trade.

There have been some successes. Pablo Escobar, head of the Medellín cartel, has been killed and his gang largely disbanded. The leaders of the Cali cartel are mostly in jail. The Government has eradicated 73,000 acres of coca and poppy, confiscated 615,000

kilos of coca leaf and 57,000 kilos of pure cocaine and destroyed processing laboratories, clandestine airstrips and precursor chemicals. All this, however, is nothing compared with the scale of the drug trade. Interdiction, the Government reckons, has at best a 10 per cent success rate. Farmers and villagers who can never earn as much from legal plantings are continuing to grow drug crops in the highlands and deep jungle, paid in advance by traffickers.

The drugs trade is exacerbating two other evils: rampant kidnapping and the virtual civil war between the two powerful and violent guerrilla movements and the 80,000-strong paramilitary forces. The 40-year-old war against the guerrillas is almost the last left in Latin America. But the former Marxists, who once posed as champions of the poor and received their funds from communist countries, now appear to have no ideology apart from self-enrichment from the proceeds of robbery, kidnapping and the drugs trade. The Government is struggling to curb the appalling human rights abuses by its own military forces, but it has found no way of starting negotiations with the guerrillas, who have not issued any political demand for some five years.

Señor Samper insists that his country cannot halt the trade in the face of overwhelming demand and money for drugs in America. Denied certification by Washington that he is doing enough to halt production, he has turned in despair to the United Nations, and wants a conference of drug producing and user countries. This is now on next year's agenda. It may not yield much. But it ought at least to convince America and Europe that curbing demand is the essential first step in halting the flow of drugs from Latin America's killing fields.

CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE

Elvis lives in the hearts of the young, of whatever age

Wise men say only fools rush in, but after 20 years the time is ripe for a measured assessment of how a snake-hipped youth from Tupelo insinuated himself so potently into the world's imagination. Elvis Presley died 20 years ago today, overweight and played-out, a dysfunctional Dionysus who left behind a beautiful widow and a back catalogue that breaks hearts still. His talent assured him a form of immortality, long before stray sightings suggested it was more than the melody which lived on, but although Elvis was unique, his fame was as much a product of circumstance as genius.

A white kid who could sing the blues like a black man was a precious asset in the Fifties but Elvis might have wasted his vocal sweetness on Tupelo's desert air but for the blessings of the baby-boom age. The prosperity of the Eisenhower era brought affordable portable transistors, the rapid growth of commercial radio and television and the emergence of a new generation of "teenagers" with the money and freedom to enjoy themselves as their parents never could. Before the Second World War there was no antechamber to adulthood, but in the Fifties youth found its winkle-picked feet and the teenager was born. His screen heroes were James Dean and Marlon Brando, but film was a medium familiar to his parents. Rock'n'roll, by contrast, was the teenager's secret garden and Elvis its presiding deity.

From the pelvic gyrations which drove Bible-belt parents to press for his suppression, to the quiff like a coiled serpent, he embodied temptation for a generation in hook to its hormones. His voice, capable of the depth necessary for a negro spiritual yet ready to soar and swoop over a dancefloor, was the perfect vehicle for a range of rebellious rock numbers and slower ballads. Elvis, like all immortals, had a protean quality. The cheek-twitching outlaw of the *Hound Dog* era effortlessly transformed himself into the clean-cut Sergeant of *GI Blues*. The adaptation did credit to more than Presley's showbusiness talent. The god-fearing son of the South neither dodged nor derided the draft, in contrast to the smaller men who danced in his shadow. Only this week more revelations of Presley's patriotism have come to light. The White House has released new material detailing Presley's quixotic offer of help to Richard Nixon in the President's fight against the abuse of street drugs.

Tragically, it was addiction that ended the dream but although the Elvis that the impersonators mimic is the bloated and roccoco figure of his long decline, the image that survives is the young man who embodied youth for the first generation that created a youth culture. Elvis lives as the icon of youth's passion, rebellion and energy — which is why successive generations can't help falling in love with him.

Hot under collar about forecasts

From Professor Maurice Crosland

Sir, Many parts of Britain have recently undergone a period of high temperatures combined with high humidity. The former have always been faithfully reported but the latter is almost always bathed in mystery: radio, television and the press may warn us that it is going to be "very humid" or even "sticky", but precisely how humid is never revealed, even though that may be more directly relevant to the discomfort of the public than the temperature.

Temperature alone is publicised and a temperature of 90F is spoken of with awe, as if it made the ordinary conduct of life impossible; yet in the dry heat of North Africa normal life continues at temperatures in excess of 90F.

Our American cousins, who suffer greater extremes of climate than ourselves, are sensible enough to publicise equally temperature and humidity, knowing that one datum without the other is no more than a half-truth. In the early history of medicine all that was reported about a patient's pulse might be that it was "rapid", and it was not until after 1850 that doctors would record the actual temperature of a patient.

As the 20th century draws to a close, may I enter a plea to the media to complement its very basic qualitative vocabulary with a quantitative element and let the British public know the actual degree of humidity.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE CROSLAND,
University of Kent at Canterbury,
School of History,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NX.
August 13.

From Mr Andy Marks

Sir, In common with my fellow citizens I have endured the recent high levels of temperature and humidity. As one of the Met Office's commercial customers I have also endured its recent low levels of forecast accuracy.

Curious to establish how accurate the Met Office thought its own forecasts were over the last 12 months, I looked in vain for the figures in the office's annual report and accounts for 1996-97.

Instead, on page 23 I found, under "Key Quality Service Target", a "Customer Satisfaction Index for services on national BBC TV and Radio 4." The result is 0.82. What on earth is a customer satisfaction index and from where does it materialise?

I also hunted through the office's 1995-96 report for notification that the accuracy figures as measured by the S5pm Radio 4 forecast were to be abandoned. To my surprise, in an appendix on page 46 under "Charter Standard for the Public", I found the statement that "the accuracy target [of 84 per cent] remains unchanged for 1996-97."

Can the actual figure have been so bad that they can't bring themselves to publish it?

Yours dispendently,
ANDY MARKS (partner),
SkyScan (aerial photography),
Oak House, Taddington,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
August 13.

Cricketing fatalities

From Mr Mark Hathaway

Sir, Angry exchanges between cricketers (report, August 13) are nothing new. Until at least the 1820s, after which the controversies induced by gambling seem to have declined, newspaper coverage is replete with disputes between players which conclude in violence, crowd disorder and even murder. Such consistent antagonism arose from the large sums wagered and played for and the ambiguous nature of the rules then employed.

On October 31, 1776, the *London Chronicle* reported of a match between Kent and Essex at Tilbury Fort... the Essex men refused playing, on which a battle ensued, and the Kentish men being killed to be worsted, one of them ran into the goal-post, and getting a gun from one of the invalids, fired and killed one of the opposite party.

The final death toll was at least three — two shot and one bayoneted. History once again demonstrates that current events could be much, much worse.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. HATHAWAY,
Kellogg College, Oxford.
August 14.

From Mr Raymond Franks

Sir, Magnus Linklater (article, August 14) supports his view that the "so-called deterioration" of behaviour on the cricket field is nothing new by referring to the occasion when W. G. Grace replaced a ball. It had been knocked off by the bowler but Grace blamed it on the wind.

In fact Grace did not get away with this ploy. The game was being played in Yorkshire, and the story is that, following his replacement of the ball, he turned to the umpire and remarked: "It's very windy today, umpire."

The umpire is said to have replied: "It is that, Doctor Grace. See it doesn't blow the cap off an 'rway back to 'pavilion'."

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND FRANKS,
Hillcrest House, Manor Gardens,
Thornes, West Yorkshire.
August 14.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Future of Africa is not all gloomy

From Mr William Quantrill

Sir, How depressing to read Matthew Parris's negative picture of modern-day Africa, headed "Africa's real epidemic" (August 8).

His statement that most of the former French West African countries "cannot be discussed as 'countries' at all" is extraordinary. I spent from 1991 to 1995 as British Ambassador to a group of countries — Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea — which included several ex-French territories. I can assure Parris that they were very real countries, in every sense. Certainly they all had their problems — corruption and inefficiency among them — but all of them had functioning civil societies. To question whether they satisfy the basic criteria in international law for the existence of a state is absurd.

Of course, it is equally wrong to be starry-eyed about the prospects for Africa. There is much hardship and deprivation, too much violence, weak leadership and, yes, the blight of corruption. But there is also a consensus emerging about what should be done to tackle the problems.

Most African countries now either have democratic governments (albeit in many cases still functioning imperfectly) or at least acknowledge that they should have them. Economic reforms are coming slowly but are beginning to show results in a few countries and others will undoubtedly follow.

It will not be easy. It will need sustained international support, focused on the needs of Africa and not simply on the role it can play in a wider political struggle — such as the Cold War — that was largely irrelevant to Africa. And does it not occur to Matthew Parris that the vast numbers of refugees in Africa, sad symbol though they are of too many bitter conflicts, are also indicative of a tradition of hospitality, of giving shelter and support to neighbours in time of trouble?

Yours sincerely,
BILL QUANTRILL,
Tor House, 36 Newtown,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.
wquantrill@msn.com

Foxhunting's place in country life

From Mr Mark Crichton Maitland

Sir, Clive Aslet ("Beware smoke signals from the rural bonfire", August 9) is right both to lament the Government's handling of countryside issues and to suggest that the foxhunting issue will not go away.

Earlier this month the Forestry Commission, a government department which is also one of the country's largest landowners, announced a review of hunting on its land. In this part of Scotland, where foxhunting and forestry happily coexist, we can see no internal need for such a review.

At the risk of being cynical, one has to suspect that this is a backdoor attempt by politicians to damage or ban field sports without the need for contentious legislation. Such a move would be thoroughly undemocratic, and if true is to be deplored. Public institutions of all kinds should follow the democratic process and not seek to sidestep or pre-empt it.

Perhaps the Forestry Commission review will be followed by a Ministry of Defence review?

Yours faithfully,
MARK CRICHTON MAITLAND,
Estate Office,
Elderslie & Houston Estates,
Kirk Road, Houston, Renfrewshire.

Buying British

From Mrs Beryl V. Pardoe

Sir, Mr Richard Whitehead (letter, August 12) asks what is going on when a bottle of Indian lager sells for less than English bottled water. Should he visit Malvern I can show him a water spout half a mile from here where he can collect as much free water as he can carry.

He may have a long wait as many people are surrounded by their four-gallon containers. Last year I saw a small water tank in the process of being filled. Perhaps the water for which Mr Whitehead paid £2.95 came from such an entrepreneur.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL V. PARDOE,
Hebron House, Blackheath Way,
West Malvern, Worcestershire.

BT's disservice

From Mr John Dover

Sir, You published a letter from me on July 28 regarding my having registered, inter alia, with BT's Telephone Preference Service to stop "junk" telephone calls. I received replies from readers thanking me for the information and telling me that that service had been overwhelmed with requests for registration forms.

At 7pm this evening I was the subject of an unsolicited call from BT trying to sell me additional services.

Yours faithfully,
J. DOVER,
9 Greenhill Avenue,
Giffnock, Glasgow.
jdover@mba1963.bhs.edu
August 11.

Weekend Money letters, page 35

A touchstone for philosophers

From Mr Graham Coy

Sir, Dr Roger Scruton remarks correctly ("The return of the sophist", August 11) that charlatans masquerading as philosophers can cause a great deal of harm. This harm can be done either on a local scale, as by the fee-paid sophist, or a more cosmic scale, as by salaried or tenured men such as Hegel (the philosophical lapdog of the Prussian State) or Nietzsche, whose works had such an unfortunate effect on German nationalist fanatics.

But a philosopher must have financial support. Socrates may not have taken fees, but must have had some money. Perhaps the ideal is to inherit an independent income, as did Descartes (who was thereby emboldened to remark that "there is nothing one can imagine so strange or unbelievable that it has not been said by one or other of the philosophers...").

Let us not forget, however, that financial independence is a necessary, not sufficient, qualification for the pursuit of pure truth (if such exists).

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM COY,
Flat 28, Dormy House,
Central Drive, Bournemouth, Dorset.
August 14.

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Of course there are some meretricious academics who parade as philosophers, but Roger Scruton is surely unduly narrow when he would bestow the title of genuine philosophers on only those who tell us that the distinctions between true and false, right and wrong, are "objective and binding".

By that canon David Hume, for example, would not make the grade, though a whole lot of dogmatic thinkers who use the utmost integrity in forcing arguments and experience to fit into their preconceptions of right and wrong would qualify.

So far from philosophy standing against the tide of "helpless relativism", it has powerfully contributed towards it, precisely by stimulating that spirit of inquiry which Roger Scruton finds in Plato. Yet Plato's proposals for censorship would have had the effect of stifling that very spirit, and they would find an echo in many other philosophies, from St Augustine's to that of Marxist-Leninism, which hold that the distinctions between right and wrong are "objective and binding".

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLUMENAU,
111 Princes House,
50 Kensington Park Road, W11.
August 11.

Too many peers

From Mr Alan J. Kennard

Sir, The creation of 57 life peers (report, August 2) raises once again the question of the size of the House of Lords, which has grown from 884 in 1958, when the Life Peerages Act was passed, until today, when the number of peers is about 1,200, of whom about 400 are life peers. In 1914 the roll of the House of Lords stood at 641.

In the past 40 years Conservative and Labour prime ministers have named an unprecedented number of life peers, but many of these peers play little or no part in the working of Parliament.

Any future plans for the second chamber should include provision for a much smaller membership. In the meantime, an immediate step could be the introduction of an upper age limit of, say, 80 years of age for hereditary and life peers to participate in the business of the Lords.

Now that we have a fixed retiring age for judges it would be appropriate to do the same for those who are part of the law-making process.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. KENNARD,
4 Ashburnham Close, N2.
August 11.

Nothing to brag about?

From Mr Phil Smith

Sir, What a shame that Melynn Bragg ("Is Jerusalem being built here?", Arts, August 11) should waste his wide-ranging powers of intellect on eulogising something as creepy as new Labour. Up here in Burnley over the last ten days I've heard not so much the "roar of energy and ideas" as the creak of just another government setting in to enjoy power and look after itself.

After all, what are governments for? And aren't writers and artists supposed to be there to make life as uncomfortable and difficult as possible for them?

Tony Blair may be taking Mr Bragg and his chums with him into some new Jerusalem, but here amongst what's left of the Satanic mills the unemployed, the poor, the old and the sick are still waiting for the call.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL SMITH,
The Old Coach House,
Holme-in-Cliviger,
Burnley, Lancashire.
August 11.

Letters may be faxed to
0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

August 15: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Princess Royal.

University of Ulster

The following have been awarded honorary degrees at the University of Ulster:

DSc Professor Robin Fox, distinguished anthropologist Mr Gary Player, for outstanding contributions to professional golf and for close links forged with Northern Ireland Dr Edward Walsh, for outstanding contribution to higher education.

Mrs Jill McIvor, in recognition of outstanding public service.

Mr Alderman Samuel Semple, for outstanding and long contribution to public service in Northern Ireland.

DLit: Mr Sean O'Dwyer, for outstanding contribution to the University of Ulster.

Mr Gerrard Robinson, for outstanding contribution to industry and commerce, especially in the fields of television and hotels, catering and tourism.

Baroness Williams of Crosby, for outstanding contribution to public and academic life.

MUniv: Mr Patrick Daniel Rodgers, for his outstanding role as a community leader in Tory Island.

Latest wills

The 10th Baron Calthorpe, of Buryfields, Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £119,500 net.

The 7th Earl Cadogan, of Snaigow, Dunkeld, Perthshire, left estate valued at £11,267,151 net. she left to her son, Mr. Kenneth Cadogan, the house in which he was born, 1500, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,267,151 net.

Marcus Newsen Bradford, of Great Shelford, Cambridge, left estate valued at £1,425,068 net.

Moosa Mohammed Patel, of London SW15, left estate valued at £1,014,375 net.

Constance Russell Stacey, of New Malden, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,486,000 net.

Barbers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Barbers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Anthony John Bartley Missen: Upper Warden, Alderman Sir John Chalmers: Middle Warden, Lord McColl of Dulwich: Renter Warden, Mr George Grant Macdonald: Deputy Master, Mr Robin Russell Clive Bloofield.

Inns of Court School of Law

D.N. Lewis, Lincoln's Inn, was among those who passed the 1996-97 Bar Vocational Course by training and assessment (competent). His initials were wrongly given in *The Times* on Wednesday.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Ralph Thoresby, antiquary, Leeds, 1658; Catherine Cockburn, dramatist, London, 1679; Carolina Oliphant, Lady Nairne, songwriter, Gask, Perthshire, 1766; Arthur Cayley, mathematician, Richmond, Surrey, 1821; Jules Laforgue, poet, Montevideo, 1860; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, Goulburn, New South Wales, 1865; T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), Tremadoc, 1888; George Heyer, historical novelist, London, 1902; Houari Boumedienne, President of Algeria, 1905-78; Guelma, 1932.

DEATHS: Thomas Fuller, scholar, London, 1661; Jacques Bernoulli, mathematician, Basle, 1705; Ramakrishna, teacher and writer, Calcutta, 1886; Jean Martin Charcot, physician, Morvan, France, 1893; Robert Bunsen, chemist, Heidelberg, 1899; Umberto Boccioni, sculptor, Verona, 1916; Sir Joseph Norman Lockyer, astronomer, Salcombe Regis, Devon, 1920; "Babe" Ruth, baseball player, New York, 1948; Douglas Hogg, 1st Viscount Hailsham, Lord Chancellor 1928-29 and 1935-38, Sussex, 1950; Louis Jouvet, actor, Paris, 1951; Irving Langmuir, physicist, Falmouth, Massachusetts, 1957; Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist, Lakeville, Connecticut, 1959; Selman Waksman, discoverer of streptomycin, Nobel laureate 1952, Hyannis, Massachusetts, 1973; Elvis Presley, singer and actor, Memphis, Tennessee, 1977; John George Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, 1957-63, 1979.

The Peterloo massacre took place at St Peter's Field, Manchester, 1819.

Cyprus became an independent republic, 1960.

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Thomas Stothard, painter, London, 1755; William Carey, oriental scholar, Palesbury, Northamptonshire, 1761; George Croly, clergyman and writer, Dublin, 1780; Davy Crockett, frontiersman and politician, Tennessee, 1780; Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, poet, Petworth House, Sussex, 1840; Henry Drummond, theologian, Strirling, 1851; Oliver St John Gogarty, writer, Dublin, 1878; Mae West, actress, New York, 1893.

DEATHS: John Gower, poet, London, 1408; King Edward V, reigned 1483, London, 1483; Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, 1740-86, Potsdam, 1796; Matthew Boulton, engineer, Birmingham, 1809; Sir Barnister Fletcher, architect and architectural historian, London, 1933; Fernand Léger, painter, Gif-sur-Yvette, 1955; Sir John Marshall, archaeologist, Guildford, Surrey, 1958; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, architect, Chicago, 1969; Conrad Aiken, novelist and poet, Savannah, Georgia, 1973; Ira Gershwin, lyricist, Beverly Hills, California, 1983; Rudolf Hess, Nazi war criminal, Spandau prison, Berlin, 1987; Harry Corbett, puppeteer and entertainer, 1989.

The registration of births, deaths and marriages was introduced into Britain, 1836.

Gold was first discovered in the Klondyke, Canada, 1896.

The first pedestrian to be knocked down and killed by a motor vehicle in Britain was Mrs Bridget Driscoll of Croydon, Surrey, who was hit by a car travelling at 4 mph, 1896.



Sergeant Ernest "Smoky" Smith, VC, talks to members of the colour party after he had laid wreaths at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, in memory of the Canadians who died during the Second World War. Sergeant Smith is one of 35 veterans who are travelling with Fred Milfin, the Canadian Minister of Veterans Affairs, to France to mark the 55th anniversary on Tuesday of the disastrous Dieppe raid when 3,379 Canadians were lost.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Bruce Beresford, film director, 57; Judge Barrington Black, 65; the Right Rev Ronald Bowly, 71; Miss Ann Chant, former chief executive, Child Support Agency, 52; Sir Philip Dowson, President, Royal Academy, 73; Mr George Galloway, MP, 43; Lord Gillingham of Thamefield, 63; Miss Katharine Hamnett, fashion designer, 50; Mr Trevor McDonald, broadcaster, 58; Madonna, singer, 38; Sir Donald Maitland, civil servant and diplomat, 75; Mr Tom Mascher, publisher, Jonathan Cape, 64; Mr John Standing, actor, 63; Miss Helen Storey, fashion designer, 38; Professor W. St. C. Sym-

mers, pathologist, 80; Mr Jeff Thomson, cricketer, 47; Mr Arthur Walsh, former chairman, Northern Telecom Europe, 71; Sir Jack Wellings, former chairman, The 600 Group, 80; Professor Brian Woldege, FBA, Emeritus Professor of French, London University, 93.

TOMORROW: Mr Ian Brindle, senior partner, Price Waterhouse, 54; Mr Hugo Brunner, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 62; Mr C.A.M. Busch, former chairman, Philips Electronics and Associated Industries, 60; Mr Jim Courtney, tennis player, 70; Mr Robin Cousins, ice-skater, 40; Mr

Robert De Niro, actor, 54; Mr D.L. Donne, former chairman, Argos, 72; Sir Leonard Figg, diplomat, 74; Mr Ted Hughes, poet Laureate, 67; Mr John Humphrys, broadcaster, 54; Miss Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 63; Mr I.G. McAllister, chairman, Ford Motor Company, 54; Mr Graham McCourt, racehorse trainer, 38; Mr Seamus Mallon, MP, 61; Professor Sir Leslie Martin, architect, 89; Mr George Melly, jazz singer, 71; Mr Alan Munster, boxer, 46; Sir Alan Munster, diplomat, 62; Sir Muna Naigpal, author, 65; Mr John Naylor, former national

secretary, National Council of YMCAs, 54; Mr Harnish Orre, former chairman, Rank Xerox, 73; Dr E.S. Page, former Vice-Chancellor, Reading University, 69; Mr Nelson Piquet, former racing driver, 45; Ms Sue Robertson, chief executive, London Arts Board, 55; Mr Richard Stott, former Editor, *Today*, 54; Miss Alfreda Thorogood, ballerina, 55; Mr Guillermo Vilas, tennis player, 45; Mrs Susan Williams, former Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, 82; Professor Michael Wise, geographer, 79; Professor Sir Tony Whitley, FBA, Master, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 66.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Richard Webb, NSM Assistant Curate, Harwell St Mary w. St Christopher (London); to be NSM Associate Vicar, same benefice with special responsibility for St Christopher's.

The Rev Ian Whittle, Associate Chaplain, The Hague (Europe); to be Priest-in-Charge, Ashwick, Glastonbury, East Wiltshire, and East Wiltshire (Norwich).

The Rev Joy Carroll, Assistant Curate, Immanuel, Streatham (Southwark); to resign October 31.

The Rev Gerald Clothier, Rector, Roughton (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich); to retire September 30.

The Rev Chaim Crossman, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Thursby (Carlisle); to retire September 30.

The Rev John Flint, Assistant Curate, Derby St Luke's (Derby); to retire August 31.

The Rev Peter Gauden, Rector, Sturry w. Fordwich and Westwre w. Heydon (Canterbury); to retire September 30.

The Rev Alfred Graham, Vicar, Burton Joyce w. Bulcote and Stoke Bardolph (Southwell); to retire November 12.

The Rev George Hall, Honorary Curate, Purton (Bristol); resigned June 30.

The Rev Alan Simpson, Kensington St Helen (London); retired July 31.

The Rev Alan Towell, Vicar, The Resurrection, Scunthorpe (Lincoln); to retire August 31.

The Rev Bryan Wells, Team Vicar, St Francis, Monk's Hill, Selsdon (Southwark); to resign August 31.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.W.F. Black and Miss S.K. O'Brien

The engagement is announced between Alex, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Black, of Wing, Buckinghamshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael O'Brien, of Albany, New York.

Mr R.K. Dickinson and Miss E.S. Nichols

The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs John Dickinson, of Brussels, Belgium, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Nichols, of Wandsworth, London.

Mr A.J.A.L. Gant and Miss S.K. Wilding

The marriage will take place today, at West Grinstead Church, West Sussex, of Adam James, son of Jonathan and Sarah Gant, of Heathfield, East Sussex, to Sarah Kathleen, daughter of Tony and Margaret Wilding, of Wassenar, Holland.

Mr P.C.M. Irons and Miss K.F. Haldane

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Marjorie Irons, of Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire, and Karen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Haldane, of Cloan, Perthshire.

Dr P.O. Wilkinson and Miss H.A. Usher

The engagement is announced between Paul Oliver, elder son of Dr and Mrs S.P. Wilkinson, of Newton Ferrers, Devon, and Heather Anne, daughter of Professor and Mrs M.B. Usher, of Dunnington, York.

Don R. Martinez Parales and Miss A.L. Gorman

The marriage took place on Friday, August 8, 1997, at Killichy Parish Church, Co. Down, between Don, Ricardo Martinez Parales, and Miss Anne Louise Gorman.

Mr N.M. Penney and Miss K.A.L. McSwaney

The marriage took place on August 15, 1997, at St Raphael's Church, Kingston upon Thames, of Mr Neil Martin Penney, son of Mrs Marianne Penney and Dr Geoffrey Penney, to Miss Katherine Anne Louise McSwaney, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence McSwaney.

Church services tomorrow

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

GLoucester Cathedral: 8.15 HC; 10.30 Ch; 10.30 E. Responses (Smith), Stanford in C. 6.30 ES. Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G. Dancer.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S. Eucharist.

OBTUARIES

GERARD JABOULET

Gerard Jaboulet, French wine producer, died of a pulmonary embolism on July 26 aged 55. He was born on June 2, 1942.

Gerard Jaboulet was a tireless and effective ambassador for the wines of the Rhône Valley. The old-established family firm of which he was head, Paul Jaboulet Aîné, makes and markets a range covering almost every appellation in the northern and southern Rhône. Widely distributed around the world, Jaboulet wines are never less than dependable, from their generic Côtes du Rhône to their finest Hermitage. The best of them, above all the red Hermitage La Chapelle, can be ranked among the great wines of the world.

Some 60-65 per cent of Jaboulet's annual production — about 1.8 million bottles — is sold abroad, most of it in Britain, Ireland, America and Switzerland. Travelling the world in a round of tastings, presentations and customer visits that kept him from home for half the year, Gerard Jaboulet did much to promote the reputation not only of his own firm's bottlings, but of all the wines of a long-uninterrupted region.

Gerard Jaboulet was born in Tournon, just across the river from Tain l'Hermitage, the busy capital of the northern Rhône wine trade. After studying business and viticulture at Montpellier University, he did military service and spent some time in Germany before joining the family business in 1969. In 1976 he took over as President Directeur Général from his father Louis (who at 85 remains actively involved in the business to this day).

The house of Jaboulet was established at Tain l'Hermitage in 1834. Wine had been made in and around the town since at least the time of the Romans, and in the 18th and 19th centuries those wines were highly prized, with Fieud, Scott and Dumas père among the writers to mention them approvingly in their works. As well as being appreciated in their own right, the robust wines of the Rhône were for many years also widely used to lend body and longevity to the finest wines of Bordeaux, with the makers of first-growth clarets proud to describe their wares as *herminette*.

In the 20th century, however, and especially after the First World War, the steep, terraced, labour-intensive vineyards of Hermitage and its neigh-



bourhood fell for a while into some neglect, and it was only in the 1960s, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Louis Jaboulet, that the vines began to regain something of the following they had formerly enjoyed. Leaving the day-to-day business of winemaking in the hands first of his brother Jacques and then of his cousins Philippe and Michel, Gerard Jaboulet continued his father's efforts to restore the best wines of the Rhône to their rightful place among the most highly prized wines of the world.

Supported by other committed producers, such as his great friend and rival Gérard Chave, and helped in the 1970s and 1980s by some enthusiastic foreign wine writers and merchants, Jaboulet's efforts succeeded — perhaps all too well. The wines of the Rhône are no longer quite the bargains they once were. Several growers (though not Jaboulet) now market luxury special cuvées of Côte Rôtie, Hermitage or Châteaufort du Pape, in tiny quantities at far from tiny prices. Today not even the lowliest of the region's appellations is spared the annual speculative circus of *en primeur* sales, with customers paying money up front to secure stocks of wines that may not yet have been bottled or in some cases even blended.

Jaboulet's wines remain good value, however — a fact which, when combined with Gerard Jaboulet's infectious enthusiasm for his products, explains why they figure on so many lists around the world. As a *négoceant*, the house of Jaboulet buys in young wines (rather than grapes) from a number of carefully selected small suppliers and uses them to make a reliable own-label range that has among its highlights a pair from basic Côtes du Rhône called *Parallèle 45*: a robust, long-lived *Village* Cornas; and a solid, correct *Châteaufort du Pape*, Les Cèdres.

The real glories of the Jaboulet range, however, are the wines made from grapes the company grows itself. The family now owns vineyards in all the appellations of the northern Rhône except Côte Rôtie and the comparatively insignificant St Péry. Under Gerard Jaboulet, a process of careful expansion was pursued that in recent years has seen the purchase of new domains at Cornas, where the first Jaboulet vintage from the three-hectare *Domaine St Pierre* was produced in 1994, and at Crozes-Hermitage, where the 50 to 80-year-old vines of the *Domaine Raymond Roud* were purchased last year with the aim of making wines to rival one of Jaboulet's best, the outstanding *Domaine de*

Thalabert from the same appellation. The *Domaine de Thalabert*, source of one of the best-value red wines in the world, was itself expanded by Gerard Jaboulet's purchase of an adjacent vineyard. He was particularly proud of the results achieved there, in the less exalted appellation of Crozes-Hermitage, once describing the Thalabert as "our little baby, because it is much more problematical to produce really good wine from these vineyards than from Hermitage itself". Extra vineyards were also acquired in Hermitage, home of Jaboulet's finest wines, the white *Chevalier de Stérimberg* and the red *La Chapelle*.

The Stérimberg is a complex, long-lived blend of the region's traditional white wine grapes, Roussanne and Marsanne, and is named after the thirteenth-century knight who is said to have built the chapel on the Hermitage hillside on his return from a crusade in 1244. The *La Chapelle*, pure Syrah, from a number of favoured sites on the hill, is named after the tiny chapel (owned by Jaboulet) that still dominates the vineyards. Barely approachable at ten years, firm and rich at twenty, and with the power in great vintages to last thirty years or more, it is a wine that can hold its own against the best of Burgundy or Bordeaux (which still generally cost twice as much).

Even with wines such as *La Chapelle* to their credit, the French can no longer afford to be complacent about the superiority of their wines to those of other countries. Gerard Jaboulet, however, was unusual in being a positive enthusiast for good wines from all over the world. His ambassadorial travels on behalf of the Rhône involved a two-way process. He tasted and learnt wherever he went. He loved North America, for instance, and had great respect for its best wines; he thought Spain had enormous potential for making fine wine; but he was just as well informed about the latest viticultural developments in Mexico or China.

Gerard Jaboulet was an urbane and cultured man, whose recreations included shooting and fly-fishing in Britain and Ireland. He spoke excellent English (albeit with a strong Gallic accent), having acquired the rudiments of the language during two months spent at what he said was "a very bad school in Clapham".

He is survived by his wife, Odile, whom he married in 1969, and by their three daughters.

GORDON LEGG

Gordon Legg, missionary to Portuguese East Africa and General Director of the Africa Evangelical Fellowship, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on January 12, 1912.

GORDON LEGG emerged from the London Underground each weekday morning in the early 1930s, striding down Oxford Street to D. H. Evans, where he worked in the men's outfitting department. In 1937 he gave up his job with a view to becoming a missionary in Mozambique or what was known then as Portuguese East Africa.

His first move was to Upper Norway in order to join the forlornly named Missionary Training Colony set up there by Captain Godfrey Buxton, who had won a Military Cross in the First World War. Buxton believed in the hardy, rugged virtues. The colony comprised half a dozen army huts in a field, in which some thirty or forty young men slept dormitory-style.

It was no picnic. Hard exercise at dawn was followed by a cold bath whatever the weather — "a Russian bath", as the prospective missionaries called it with feeling (by which they meant "rush in and rush out"). More practically, Legg learnt shoe-mending and road-mending as well as carpentry and haircutting. He also spent ten weeks at Crofton General Hospital, cramming in as wide a range of medical skills as he could.

Henry Gordon Legg was born in Derby, the second son of a railway clerk, and was educated at Bemrose Secondary School and at the city's School of Commerce. At 15 he was apprenticed to a local clothier as a salesman, a career for which his courteous manner well qualified him.

At the age of 20 he joined D. H. Evans in London, rising to the position of first salesman before applying to



the South Africa General Mission (now the Africa Evangelical Fellowship). After a brief spell at Coimbra University in Portugal, for further training in language and culture, he sailed for Africa in February 1939 aboard *RMS Warwick Castle*.

Legg was soon to learn about Africa the hard way. He narrowly escaped being mauled by a man-eating lion, saving himself only through his skill with a gun. And his first wife died of cerebral malaria in 1944 after only two years of marriage.

Stationed at Mbezi in the Zambezia province of Mozambique, Legg built up a school of more than 600 pupils, together with a clinic and dispensary which was run by his second wife, Katie, a Welsh nurse whom he met in Lusitania, Zimbabwe. While on furlough in Britain in 1960, news reached them that a schizophrenic man had murdered a child in the clinic, and they rushed back immediately. But this ugly incident was still to lead to their expulsion.

Portuguese Roman Catholic priests had long resented the presence of a Protestant mission, and they used the murder to bring pressure on the Government to close the enterprise down. Legg received a visit from a government official

giving him 24 hours' notice to disband a school of 600 pupils, a medical clinic, and a combined staff of more than 30. Gracious hospitality had always been one of Legg's hallmarks and the official and his assistant were invited to stay to lunch once they had delivered their ultimatum.

The international headquarters of the Africa Evangelical Fellowship was then in Johannesburg, and Legg was asked to move there as assistant general director in 1961, becoming general director in 1969. He developed an extensive ministry among the thousands of workers who migrated to the goldmines, stretching in a crescent for over a hundred miles from Johannesburg to Klerksdorp.

The migrant workers arrived at a rate of a thousand a week from half a dozen different countries. Meals were dished out regularly and medical attention was good. But lack of family life and the sheer alienation of this existence gave rise to inter-tribal animosity and violence.

In an era scarred by the doctrine of apartheid, the integrity and equality of Legg's relationships with Africans stood out. All his dealings with black people were characterised by good manners and consideration. This evidently left its mark — and not only in and around Johannesburg. When, having retired in 1981, he returned to Mozambique in 1982, after more than 20 years' absence, he was welcomed back by Christian and civic leaders alike. The intervening years had seen the seeds he had planted blossom and flourish, and the Church had grown to ten times the size it had been when he was forced to leave in 1960.

Gordon Legg is survived by his second wife Katie Allen, whom he married in 1949. There were no children.

DEREK SMITH

Derek Smith, founder of the Village Retail Services Association, died from a brain tumour on August 5 aged 65. He was born on April 2, 1932.

THE Village Retail Services Association is the charity which helps small rural communities to retain or reinstate their village shops and post offices. Derek Smith, its prime mover, was a farmer for most of his life. When he moved, after 30 years in Hampshire, to Sydney Farm at Halstock (population 350) in west Dorset there was a village shop (with post office), but when this closed rather abruptly in 1991, the villagers found themselves without an amenity they had taken for granted.

With determination, imagination and great good humour Smith brought some sixty local people together, and kept them together, to provide the capital needed to acquire new premises to set up a shop, with community post office attached. At first the shop was run by a volunteer, but subsequently it was let at an affordable rent.

The fundamental problems he faced, in addition to the growth of out-of-town supermarkets, were the greatly increased values of rural freehold premises and the dearth of any for renting. When in August 1991 *The Times* published a story about the closure of village shops and a leader entitled "The Megastore Menace", Smith at once wrote a letter describing the Halstock experience, and found himself deluged by letters from villagers all over the country.

More than 100,000 village shops had closed in the previous 30 years, and many rural communities were in danger of losing what they could do to protect those that were left, or how to set up new ones. Smith prepared a report on the subject for the Rural Development Commission, finding during its compilation that there was no national organisation focusing on the problem.

The result was the formation, in 1992, of the Village Retail Services Association, which Smith set up in offices at Sydney Farm. It has the single objective of helping villages to retain their shops and post offices, building up a fund of knowledge, sharing experience and developing several model systems which could be tailored to various circumstances. The association recently became a registered charity, and since its foundation it has been involved with more than 300 villages, helping to set up more than 25 village-backed shops and post offices.

The establishment of the association marked a considerable change of direction for Smith, although old friends had always recognised the quirkiness and unconventional elements in his make-up, which influenced even his farming.

Derek Campbell Smith was educated at Marlborough and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he switched from agriculture to English.



This was not popular at Corpus in those days, the college's view being that English was more suitable for private life than for academic study. However, without deviating from his wish to be a farmer, Smith overcame the objections, and celebrated by setting off with a friend (with a donkey) to follow in Robert Louis Stevenson's footsteps through the Cevennes.

His first job in agriculture was as farm manager on the Timsbury Manor estate near Romsey in Hampshire, where he had great difficulty in waking up in time to do the milking. With typical ingenuity he sought to solve the problem by putting alarm clocks inside saucers. The reverberating din, however, woke everyone but him.

When Smith subsequently bought Timsbury Manor, he farmed it both conventionally and adventurously, experimenting with a variety of ideas, even one year trying horseradish as a main crop. On another occasion he travelled to Wales intending to buy cattle and returned instead as the owner of a hotel in Lampeter.

Throughout his life Smith came up with the unexpected. Having established himself and his family in Timsbury, he suddenly decided to give up full-time farming and retire to Halstock, where, among other ventures, he acquired a group of old battery hen-houses and turned them into rural workshops. It was here that he met his last challenge of setting up the Village Retail Services Association, which continued to preoccupy him even after he was afflicted, two years ago, with the brain tumour that eventually killed him.

He is survived by his wife Alison, whom he married in 1957, and by two sons and a daughter, another son having died in 1986.

HUBERT LANSLEY

Hubert Lansley, founder and editor of *Meccano Engineer*, died on August 7 aged 89. He was born on September 25, 1907.

ALTHOUGH he has his niche in the history of technical publishing for his audacity in founding *Meccano Engineer*, Hubert Lansley is best known for the contributions he made to *Meccano Magazine* in the heyday of that celebrated monthly. But it was his own, home-grown, hand-stitched publication which, in 1923, earned him a summons to the offices of the editor of *Meccano Magazine*, the redoubtable Ellison Hawks, both to receive a rebuke for daring to appropriate the *Meccano* name for the title of his journal, and at the same time to be offered employment as a columnist.

From then until 1930 he contributed most of the *Meccano* content of the magazine (which also carried features on other technical subjects) under the byline "Spanner". He also ghosted a column for Frank Hornby, the inventor of *Meccano* and Hornby trains. From 1930 until the outbreak of war in 1939 Lansley ran a shop selling *Meccano* and Hornby trains in Muswell Hill, London, and in the postwar



Lansley stitching an issue of *Meccano Engineer*

period he acquired an employment agency. But *Meccano Magazine* continued to be published until 1981, though by that time its circulation was down from its 1930s peak of 96,000.

Hubert Henry Lansley was born at Barnet, seven years before a Liverpoolian named Frank Hornby had founded "Mechanics Made Easy", later to be renamed by George Jones in its famous reincarna-

tion, *Meccano*. Given a *Meccano* set for his fifth birthday, Lansley soon became a devotee, bolting together his own versions of cars, lorries and trains drawn from his fertile brain. With the impetus provided by the First World War, he soon added to these tanks, artillery pieces, ships and aircraft, many of a degree of elaboration doubtless undreamt of by the participating combatants and

their various war ministries. At school he tried to interest his fellows in *Meccano* by publishing a magazine, which he wrote himself. But he was disconcerted to find that his schoolmates were more interested in stamp collecting than *Meccano*, and so was compelled to call his innovative publication *Stamp Collectors' Monthly*. Needless to say, this philatelic journal contained some editorial matter on *Meccano*.

But by 1921 the balance of power in the magazine between philately and *Meccano* had altered. Acquiring a duplicator, Lansley was able to publish a 12-page issue under the title *Meccano Engineer*, in which the stamp collecting interest was relegated to a single page. By the time the magazine reached its eighth issue its circulation was well over a thousand, but it had come to the attention of the *Meccano* firm's own publication, whose editor decided that this upstart rival must be terminated, while admiring the talents and initiative of its founder/editor.

Offered a job by Ellison Hawks, Lansley was told that issue No 9 must be *Meccano Engineer's* last, and had to bring to an abrupt end a favourite serial he had been writing about a futuristic aero-

plane. From 1924 until 1930, at the firm's Liverpool headquarters, Lansley experimented with models and wrote most of the *Meccano* input of *Meccano Magazine*, which also contained general interest stories for boys, cartoons and articles on technical inventions. It was a highly sophisticated journal and its coverage of aviation developments, in particular, was considered second to none in its day.

In 1930 Lansley decided to go into business himself and, until the demands of war required all steel production to be taken up for military purposes, was happy selling *Meccano* products in Muswell Hill. Too old for call-up, he served in the Home Guard during the war.

In the 1950s his work took a completely different course when he acquired an old-established City employment agency, *Phillips Staff Bureau*. As a member, also, of the Institute of Employment Consultants he often found himself in conflict with trade unionists and left-wing Labour MPs who wanted to outlaw all but state employment agencies, but this was resisted. As a member of the executive of the Federation of Personnel Services, he was able to make significant contributions to the *Employment Agencies Act* of 1973.

These preoccupations had taken him away from the world of *Meccano*, but in retirement in the 1970s his interest was rekindled through a meeting with Bert Love, head of the Midlands *Meccano* Guild. In 1994 his memoir *My Meccano Days* was published by *Constructor's Quarterly*.

Lansley's wife Violet died in 1993. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any person having a claim against or in relation to the estate of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley, died on 7th August 1997, may present the same to the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the undersigned, who is the executor of the late Mr. Hubert Lansley's will, at the office of the undersigned, at 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on or before the 15th September 1997. Claims must be presented in writing and must be accompanied by evidence in support thereof. Claims may be presented in writing or by oral evidence given by the claimant in the presence of the unders

47/10/5A

INSIDE
SECTION

2
TODAY



BUSINESS

Pearson
cuts off
another limb
PAGE 26



BUSINESS

Graham Searjeant
on market bombs
that need defusing
PAGE 29



SPORT

Rainey hopes to
have his day on
return to track
PAGES 38-48

SIMON
BARNES ON
SATURDAY
PAGE
40

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997



David Steene, a director of CMC, which specialises in loans to low-income borrowers, helped to fund William Hague's leadership campaign

Tory donor tied to US fraudsters

DAVID STEENE, the businessman who donated £20,000 to William Hague's Tory leadership campaign, is this weekend revealed to be running a business with links to United States fraudsters.

Mr Steene is managing director of City Mortgage Corporation, the much-criticised lender to people on low incomes. Cityscape, CMC's parent company in the United States, was helped onto the Nasdaq market by Abraham Salaman, a convicted stock market manipulator.

And on every loath that it makes in the UK, CMC still pays a commission to Richard Botchman, a businessman who was involved in a property scandal in the United States. When it became apparent in the US that Botchman was a major shareholder in Cityscape, the company's shares plummeted.

This week, CMC agreed to review its entire loan portfolio.

Leaders of last resort, page 27

Markets nervous as FTSE falls 125 points

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

WORLD financial markets slithered nervously into another nail-biting weekend as share prices fell sharply in London, New York, Frankfurt and Hong Kong.

The FTSE 100 index of blue chips tumbled 125.5 points to 4,865.8, ending at its worst for the day. The 2.8 per cent fall was proportionately the biggest on one day for eight years.

In New York, bond prices fell back again. In volatile share trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 130 points by mid-afternoon to 7,811. In Europe, German share prices ended 3 per cent lower in Frankfurt and Swiss shares shed an average 1.5 per cent in Zurich. Most continental markets were shut for the Feast of the Assumption.

Earlier, the Hang Seng

index had fallen 2.4 per cent in Hong Kong. Shares in the HSBC banking group, a top stock in both Hong Kong and London, dropped 7 per cent through the day.

As on the previous Friday, when falls on Wall Street sent jitters round the world, price changes were exaggerated in thin August trading and securities markets took their cue from the foreign exchanges.

The dollar was again weak, particularly against the mark. On Thursday, it had traded at about DM1.84, but quickly fell to DM1.815, amid unsubstantiated speculation that the Bundesbank had bought marks for dollars, before settling at about DM1.82.

The pound also recovered against the dollar, rising two cents to \$1.6093, but fell marginally against the mark. The Sterling Index edged up from 101.8 to 102.1.

Credence was given to another interview with a member of the Bundesbank council, which meets again next week. It confirmed that the German central bank could allow its repo rate to drift up to support the currency. The mark's weakness against a strong dollar lies at the heart of market anxieties.

Pressure on the dollar translated to falls in US Treasury bonds and thence into shares. Europe took its cue from Wall Street, ignoring other signals from the foreign exchanges.

In New York and London at least, the expiry during the day of quarterly share index options also exacerbated price falls. In London, prices had

held up early, then dropped suddenly in late morning, suggesting that share values may have been held up artificially earlier in the week.

Securities houses reported no big selling. As before, there was little anxiety in London, as in New York, that shares might be overvalued, making them vulnerable to a change of sentiment and trend.

A sharp contrast was maintained in London between the behaviour of the big internationally traded blue chips, such as leading banks and pharmaceuticals houses, and the main bulk of domestic shares. The FTSE 250, which covers big companies outside the FTSE 100, actually rose on the day, albeit only by 0.17 per cent. The index of small companies also edged up.

BSkyB profits rise to £314m

By OUR CITY STAFF

PRE-TAX profits at British Sky Broadcasting rose 22 per cent to £314 million in the year to end June. Shares in the satellite broadcaster, however, fell 35p to 437p.

Sir Christopher, the BSkyB chief executive who retired in December, said of the profits: "This is an impressive performance. Debt levels have been reduced at a time when the company is investing for the future." He also said that maintaining current profit levels next year would be a "spectacular" achievement, a comment that was initially taken by the market as a profits warning.

Later in the day, the company explained that it fully expected to remain as profitable next year in spite of the digital investment, which will see the launch of about 200 channels and services, including near video-on-demand and home shopping.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, reported a sales rise of 26 per cent to £1.27 billion. The figure was boosted by a £14 million payment from British Digital Broadcasting, the new digital terrestrial broadcaster that is to buy premium channels from BSkyB.

Subscription revenue was up 24 per cent to £1.1 billion, while advertising revenue grew 36 per cent to £150 million as the company added 878,000 direct-to-home and cable subscribers, taking its total to 6.37 million.

Analysts said the results contained no real surprises, though the cost of entertainment channels, up 40 per cent to £90.9 million in the year, was "ballooning". A final dividend of 3.25p, to be paid on November 14, takes the total dividend up 9 per cent to 6p.

WEEKEND MONEY



30
Anne Ashworth
on the Birmingham
Midshires deal

29

Is the stock
market bubble
about to burst?



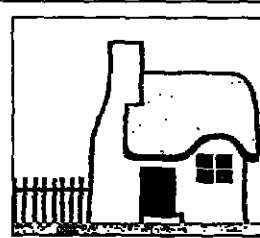
31

Internet shopping.
The risks for
credit card holders

HOUSE BUYING

32

Where you can
buy a house
in a day



PENSIONS

35

When is the
right time to start
a pension?

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FTSE 100	4865.8	(-125.5)	
Yield	3.45%	(-0.01%)	
FTSE All share	2302.40	(-43.92)	
Nikkei	10326.09	(+103.41)	
New York	7863.52	(-78.51)	
Dow Jones	916.19	(-8.58)	
S&P Composite	916.19	(-8.58)	
US RATE			
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(0.00%)	
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(0.00%)	
Yield	6.55%	(0.00%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-mth Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)	
Life long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)	
Future (Sep)	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)	
STERLING			
New York	1.6097	(1.5915)	
London	1.6101	(1.5987)	
DM	2.5275	(2.5229)	
FF	9.8948	(9.8112)	
SF	2.4164	(1.4158)	
Yen	185.47	(187.06)	
E Index	102.1	(101.8)	
DOLLAR			
London	1.6097	(1.5915)	
DM	2.5275	(2.5229)	
FF	9.8948	(9.8112)	
SF	2.4164	(1.4158)	
Yen	185.47	(187.06)	
E Index	102.1	(101.8)	
YEN			
London	1.6097	(1.5915)	
DM	2.5275	(2.5229)	
FF	9.8948	(9.8112)	
SF	2.4164	(1.4158)	
Yen	185.47	(187.06)	
E Index	102.1	(101.8)	

DOLLAR			
London	1.6097	(1.5915)	
DM	2.5275	(2.5229)	
FF	9.8948	(9.8112)	
SF	2.4164	(1.4158)	
Yen	185.47	(187.06)	
E Index	102.1	(101.8)	
YEN			
London	1.6097	(1.5915)	
DM	2.5275	(2.5229)	
FF	9.8948	(9.8112)	
SF	2.4164	(1.4158)	
Yen	185.47	(187.06)	
E Index	102.1	(101.8)	

A&L opens way for special payout

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER has ruled out a foreign purchase with its £800 million cash pile, leaving the way open for a special dividend payout for more than two million shareholders.

Peter White, chief executive of the building society turned bank, said A&L was looking for an acquisition that would add "more profitable customers and more profitable products". He added: "We have no foreign adventures planned."

Alliance & Leicester, which unveiled interim pre-tax profits down 3 per cent at £178 million after conversion costs of £28 million, rewarded 2.4 shareholders with a maiden half-time dividend of 6.4p.

payable on October 20. If there is spare money after any acquisitions shareholders could receive a special dividend.

The mortgage and savings arm of Alliance & Leicester contributed £128 million to group profits against £122 million last time. Net new lending soared to £527 million (£131 million), representing a 4.5 per cent market share. Profits from the personal banking division were £42 million (£38 million).

Commercial banking profits, which include Girobank and the group's leasing business, remained unchanged at £30 million.

Tempus, page 28

NIE seeks review over price-setting

By MARK COURT

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity is plotting to drag its regulator through the courts in a move that could set a vital precedent in ending the powers of utility regulators.

NIE yesterday sought a judicial review after Douglas McIldeon, Northern Ireland's electricity regulator, refused to follow the recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC, which acts as umpire in disputes between utilities and regulators, was called in because Mr McIldeon wanted NIE to cut its distribution prices by 30 per cent whereas the company wanted a cut of 22 per cent.

The MMC settled on 25 per cent but Mr McIldeon is insisting on 29 per cent.

Nigel Hawkins, analyst at Yamaichi, said: "This has implications beyond NIE in terms of the whole regulated sector. We have major reviews of water and electricity in the year 2000. Many of them could end up at the MMC so the question is: 'Would its rulings be final?'"

Utility bosses are following the row with intense interest. The chief executive of one said: "A regulator has never been tested like this before. It would be much healthier if the whole process was more open, but that would require changes in the law."

Mortgages rise for one in three

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE mortgage war warmed up after the Halifax, Nationwide and Woolwich, which together provide mortgages for more than a third of Britain's borrowers, announced 0.25 percentage point increases in rates.

The increases are in line with the 0.25 point rise in base rates announced last week. The move by Halifax, the UK's biggest lending institution, will almost certainly be followed by lenders that have not yet announced increases.

The rises mean that borrowers with the

Halifax, now a bank, will have to pay interest rates of 8.45 per cent, a rate matched later by the Woolwich. Borrowers with the Nationwide Building Society, which last month fought to stay mutual, will pay a lower rate of 8.1 per cent.

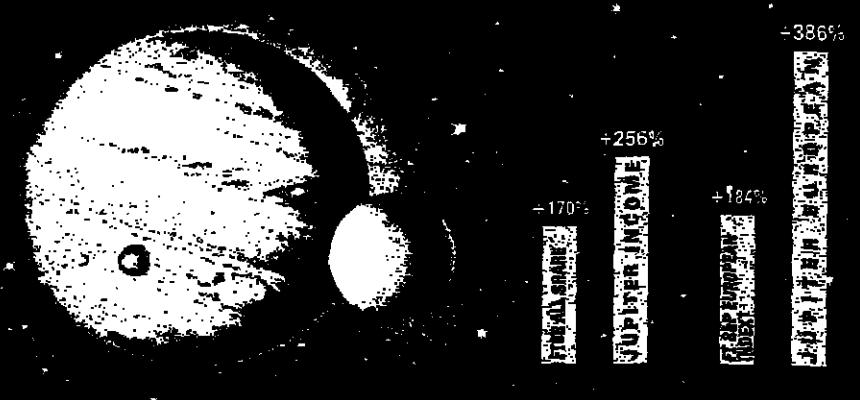
A Halifax borrower with a £50,000 interest-only loan will now pay £320 a month, an increase of £9.48. A borrower with an identical mortgage from Nationwide will pay £307 a month — an annual saving over the Halifax of £150.

Nationwide is offering lower mortgage rates than its main rivals as part of a £200

million bid to promote mutualism. The mortgage rates of Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich are all in line with the rates offered by the Halifax. Nationwide also claims that its mutual status will allow it to offer better savings rates.

The rate rise is the fourth since the change of Government. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the bank, says base rates may rise further because about a quarter of the UK's ten million borrowers have fixed-rate loans, making rate rises less effective in controlling inflation.

STARS OVER THEIR FIRST 10 YEARS



Jupiter's Income and European Funds

In August 1987, Jupiter launched their Income and European unit trusts.

The ten years since have seen every sort of market conditions, driven by events from Black Monday to the Gulf War.

Over this ten year period both of these funds have comprehensively outperformed the relevant Stock Market Indices as well as coming first out of all competing funds in their respective sectors.

Jupiter's record of performance stems from a consistent investment strategy carried through by a team of top-quality, long-serving fund managers.

To be part of this success, find out more about these star performing funds and the Jupiter PEP (including our 'Windfall' option).

Don't miss out on this double act. Talk to your financial adviser, call us free or return the coupon.

JUPITER
Leaders in long-term performance

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE ON 0500 0500 97

Bar chart: *Offer to bid, net income reinvested 1.8.87-1.8.97. Source: Micropal. †Excluding UK. Five year performance to 1.8.97: Jupiter Income +233% (1st out of 80 sector funds); FTSE All Share +127%; Jupiter European +239% (2nd out of 108 sector funds); FTSE European Index +163.0%; offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal.

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.

Please send me further information on: The Jupiter Income/European Funds ☐ The Jupiter PEP ☐ Jupiter Unit Trusts ☐

Print Name (Mr/Ms/Mx) _____ Address _____

Post Code _____

Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd is regulated by BMO and the Personal Investment Authority. Member of JUTM a subsidiary of Commercial AG, one of Germany's leading banks. The value of an investment in a unit trust and the income from it can go down as well as up. It may be affected by exchange rate variations, and you may not get back the amount invested. Current tax levels and reliefs may change and their value will depend on your individual circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Up to 100% of the annual management fee is to be taken from capital of Income Trust and High Income Funds. This may accordingly restrict capital growth. Copies of the half-yearly and annual reports may be obtained from Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB. Scheme particulars and key features documents may also be obtained from that address.

**You can judge
a company by
the company
that it keeps**



Legal & General
Investment Management

WAITING GAME 35

Pensions
patience
will pay off

WEEKEND
MONEY

CARDS MARKED 31

Worried by
use of
Visa number



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

When will the
bubble burst?

Crash fears are prevalent but
Adam Jones and Caroline Merrell
remain confident for a new era

This week share prices on global markets were nearly 100 per cent higher than at the start of this particular bull run in 1990. According to an analysis by Templeton, the global investment house, a rise of this size has in the past been followed by a 25 per cent fall in the value of shares. The falls are not always sharp corrections, as experienced in 1997. They may be spread over several years.

Meanwhile, an analysis by Merrill Lynch, the securities house, showed that many of the UK's biggest pension fund managers were increasing their holdings of cash.

But a survey by *The Times* found only a few committed bears among fund managers. Few predict a sudden sharp fall in the indices and the bursting of the stock market bubble. Some speculate that we may have entered a new period for the markets, where share prices may defy the normal rules.

In the City many are furiously studying American experience to discover the future for the London market. Wall Street has long struggled off predictions of a share slump. Strong economic growth has so far failed to cause the inflation that would make equity yields unattractive to buyers. Analysts ask whether European economies are at the same stage of development as the US earlier this decade. If the answer is yes, then stock markets could continue to rise.

Brian Bielinski, an analyst at Salomon Brothers, believes there are parallels to the US a couple of years ago, which include persistent growth in

productivity allowing company profits to keep rising without similar-sized increases in costs such as salaries. But he argues that much of this may already be factored into current prices. Salomon smells a Wall Street fall, the so-called "correction", in the second half of 1997.

This week, there were indications, temporarily at least, that European markets can continue to rise. The London stock market had started the week under a cloud after a fall on Wall Street late the previous Friday. Many speculated that it might signal the end of the UK's bull run.

Doom merchants were confounded but, after yesterday's falls, the market will start next week under the same cloud. Drawing on renewed optimism waiting over from the US, which was quickly forging its earlier stumble, the UK index recovered, then drifted round the 5,000 mark after a brief fall on Monday morning.

Until yesterday, prices had held in the face of some testing economic data. On Wednesday unemployment was shown to be at its lowest level for 17 years. But earnings growth remained stable, calming inflation fears.

In the longer run, the pessimists who foresee a significant fall in the UK market have not changed their tune. It is difficult to find an equally loud voice saying there will be a big rise. In many cases, 5,000 or below is the prediction for the FTSE by the end of the year, alongside falls on other exchanges around the world.

There is general agreement that investors should now avoid trendy "momentum" stocks that could be hit badly by a downturn and opt for neglected sectors that offer better value.

Prudential, which is the largest investor in the UK stock market, has not changed its view on UK shares. Juan Navarro, who is part of the team that decides where the Prudential invests its billions, said: "We prefer the UK to other stock markets. European markets are much more vulnerable. Since the beginning of the third quarter, the UK has been outperforming other markets, and we think that it will continue to do so."

Neil Woodford, fund manager with Perpetual, said that the moment everyone starts predicting that share prices will fall is the moment to invest. He said: "I think that there will be a

crash, but it will be upwards. The pension fund managers feel bearish because they have for the first time been completely beaten by the passive fund managers. If they are switching into cash and the market is still going up, there is still further value to be had."

Mr Woodford does not believe that the UK is in a strong bull market. He points out that only companies in the FTSE 100 index, that is the biggest companies, have shown very strong rises. The share prices of the medium-sized or small companies have not moved upwards with such alacrity. Export-led manufacturing companies and those that have large overseas earnings have been hurt by the strength of the pound. With the weakening of sterling, they may now start to bounce back.

Mathew Orr, a partner with Killik & Co, the broker, is also optimistic, and also believes that the smaller companies will now come into their own. Although the FTSE 100 has moved up 27 per cent, some of the companies with less than £1 billion market capitalisation have not moved. Halima and Dorling Kindersley, the publisher, are two such stocks, he claims.

For those UK investors who are nervous about buying into the UK market at these levels, Mr Orr points to UK investment trusts trading at a discount. "The discounts protect investors against a downturn."

Jeremy Bastione, Natwest stockbroker, pointed out that many in the US had been expecting a crash for some time — it had not arrived. "We now have to realise that we are in a new paradigm."

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Nationwide members may have rejected conversion, but the wave of demutualisations in the building society industry is not quite over (Anne Ashworth writes). Birmingham Midshires, a society long tipped as likely to succumb to a predator, is to be taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland for a price between £605 million and £630 million.

However, the move has not exhausted the expansionist ambitions of the bank which had earlier been disappointed in its hope of acquiring the Nationwide. RBS says that it will be seeking other building society purchases.

Royal Bank still
on the lookout

Around one million Birmingham Midshires members will benefit from the takeover. Although an average payout of £600 has been mentioned, the exact purchase price for the society will be based on its profits for the 12 months to June 30, 1998.

It appears that the terms of the takeover could resemble the Bristol & West distribution. B&W borrowers and

savers who had been with the society for less than two years did not qualify for cash payments but were given B&W preference shares. Longer-standing savers received cash. It is likely that Birmingham Midshires borrowers and recently joined savers will receive preference shares in RBS. They will be able to sell these via a low-cost dealing service.

It is not yet clear whether

savers of longer standing will receive a basic amount or a payment based on the size of their balance. JP Morgan, the merchant bank advising Birmingham Midshires, has favoured the basic distribution arrangement in two of its three building society deals, the conversions of the Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock.

On the basis of the details that have been disclosed so far, analysts consider that Birmingham Midshires members are getting a fair deal. Borrowers and recently joined savers would, doubtless, prefer to receive RBS ordinary shares, but existing RBS

Continued on page 31, col 3

Bombs that need defusing

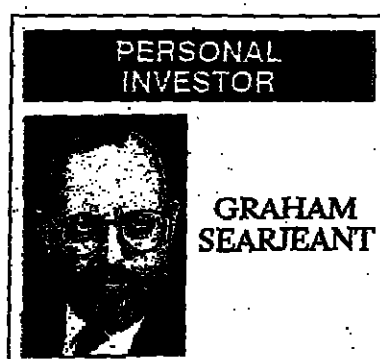
These are nervous times in the financial markets. And that is good news. The more aware investors, traders and the authorities are of the tensions that have built up, the less likely they are to trigger explosions.

The 1987 crash had its origins on the foreign exchanges. Economic and interest rates cycles in America, Europe and Japan were out of kilter. The dollar had fallen steadily for two years after being driven to the heights by a boom linked to high interest rates. A sharp final drop was triggered by American refusal, at the economic summit, to do much about its trade and budget deficits.

The tensions built up this summer seem less extreme. They are still liable to cause volcanic eruptions if continental plates grate harshly against one other.

Interest rates are so low in Japan that retired people, who rely much more on cash savings, are suffering badly. Three-month deposits fetch only 0.5 per cent and eight-year government bonds about 2 per cent. That helps Japanese banks to recover their huge losses, but no wonder investment has flowed abroad, mainly into US Treasury bonds. So the yen has fallen from a high of 82 to 116 to the dollar, too low for comfort. Japan will surely follow IMF advice to raise rates.

The dollar was boosted by speculators from all quarters who expected the long expansion to bring more pre-emptive rises in interest rates or threaten inflation. Neither has happened recently. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has changed his mind. Instead of lambasting "irrational exuberance", he now accepts that a US

PERSONAL
INVESTORGRAHAM
SEARJEANT

productivity miracle just could keep non-inflationary growth going indefinitely. Speculators chasing rising money rates have been replaced by others chasing bond prices. Ten-year money now fetches only 6½ per cent and 30 year money 6½. That looks a decent return to lock in, but not if optimists are wrong and the dollar unwinds.

If there is any major economic imbalance, it will be in continental Europe. Governments have tight fiscal policies to qualify for the euro, stifling recovery and leaving interest rates low. Most will not succeed without cheating but, it seems, will qualify anyway. The European central bank may then feel it needs to defend the new euro against such profligacy and raise interest rates well above today's German levels. Or it may not, allowing the euro to stimulate trade. Or the union may fail.

This makes fertile ground for speculators, especially before decisions on euro membership next spring. Foreigners

buying mark-denominated assets now are taking a double risk. Traders attacked the mark because it will convert into a weaker euro and, later, high and still rising unemployment would not allow the Bundesbank to defend it. So far, the Bundesbank has sidestepped the challenge neatly.

Continental money has flowed into London stocks, embarrassing cautious domestic fund managers. Foreigners felt safe buying sterling. The highest interest rates in any major market were still rising. But blue chip shares were pushed up when the domestic attractions of holding cash were rising by the month, when sterling's strength was hitting profits and when City forecasts of company earnings growth were falling.

Any change in assumptions being made by traders can easily set off a chain reaction. This week the dollar fell gently against the mark but stopped falling against the yen, and US shares and bonds dipped with minimum fuss. Sterling eased and blue chips relapsed a little. The Bank of England astutely coupled news that UK rates are on hold for three months with one last rise. That was encouraging until yesterday's tumble.

Quirky August trading positions are unravelling from the extremes. The danger will not be over for many months, until markets have coped with some reversal of interest rate trends. Those who remember 1987 will also remember that even a crash can be short-lived when economic fundamentals are sound, as they are in Britain.

10 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY

WOOLWICH WINDFALL?

WE'RE GONNA
WAIT TILL
THE MIDNIGHT
HOUR

AGUST 17 MIDNIGHT PEP DEADLINE

If you've already received your windfall shares and want to put them into a Personal Equity Plan (PEP), time is running out.

To help you, Fidelity's Tonbridge office will be open right up to the deadline on midnight, Sunday August 17th, so you can take advantage of the PEP that so many experts recommend. No other PEP provider stays up so late for you.

(If you have yet to receive your share certificate, don't worry. You will have 42 days from the allocation date shown on your share certificate to decide what to do with them.)

Fidelity's No-Cost Windfall PEP, as the name suggests, doesn't cost you a penny.* (Compare that with other PEP providers.) It also allows you to keep your shares as they



are, or you can switch them into any of our top-performing funds, at any time.

You'll also have the peace of mind in knowing that your money is with the world's largest fund manager. Someone who is a specialist in handling investments like PEPs and with a formidable track record of consistent proven performance.

So, if you've got your Woolwich share certificate and you want to put your windfall shares in a PEP why not drop in at our Tonbridge office at the following address: Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road, Hildenborough.

Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9D2.

We'll be burning the midnight oil.

0800 41 41 33

Call free 9am to 6pm, 7 days. Fax: 01737 836 980. <http://www.fidelity.co.uk>



Fidelity
Investments

*Investors who hold no other Fidelity products by 5/4/99 will be charged 1.5% plus VAT annually after 5/4/99. An investor selling a windfall share for cash will be charged 4.95%. Resources and assets are as at 31/3/97 and include investments of F&G Corp, a US company and affiliate. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and income from them can go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. The value of tax savings will depend on your circumstances. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice. Fidelity Investments Ltd registered by FSC and the Personal Investment Authority.

Nathan Yates on whether smaller companies trusts are set to make it big Cinderella funds miss the ball

Smaller companies funds are the Cinderellas of the unit and investment trust world. While trusts that buy shares in larger firms are basking in the riches of a record bull market, the smaller companies sector is missing the ball.

Relative to the FTSE 100, the FTSE small cap (capitalisation) index that measures the performance of small firms has

slumped for a third successive year. The record levels achieved this week by the FTSE 100 have not been matched by rises in the share prices of the smaller companies.

Many investors have lost patience with being left behind, withdrawing £11 million from smaller companies unit trusts in July alone, and a dearth of demand for smaller companies investment trusts has sent aver-

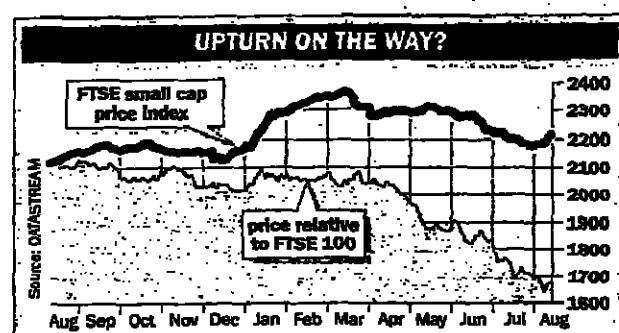
age discounts to asset value soaring at 14 per cent.

But expert opinion is sharply divided on whether now is the time to make an exit. Some analysts claim that smaller companies funds are significantly undervalued, while others say the only way forward for this sector is downwards.

The optimists, such as Andrew Crossley of Invesco, believe that smaller companies offer rare value in a stretched market. "Smaller companies have seen unprecedented underperformance considering we are not in a recession," he said. "But the fundamental story is still that the FTSE 100 is overvalued and the small cap index undervalued. Sooner or later something will trigger a change, and once this happens we will see the gap close quickly."

Mr Crossley says that the gap between smaller and larger companies has been exaggerated by factors such as building society demutualisations, which have drawn extra investment into the big banks. "Smaller companies specialists have just got demoralised, and the result is that small caps are now cheaper than at any time in the past 15 years," he said.

One of the biggest difficul-



ties for smaller firms is the strength of the pound. A strong pound means that British goods are more expensive to buy abroad, so exporters are faced with either squeezing their profits or losing competitiveness. For large multinational companies the problem is less acute because they can offset their UK currency losses against gains in other parts of the world. But for a small British manufacturer, it is difficult to escape the problem.

In addition, rising interest rates create a tough environment for small firms, many of which are forced to rely on borrowing to sustain investment. Higher rates mean higher borrowing costs and lower profits for shareholders.

According to Gervais Williams, of Gartmore, an immi-

grant change in both of these negative factors will trigger a revival for smaller companies. "The amazing divergence between large and small will not last. Interest rates will peak soon and we do not expect them to exceed 8 per cent. Sterling may already be on its way down. Either of these factors could be the turning point."

Support for Mr Williams' view emerged this week with signs that the gap between share prices of larger and smaller companies is closing. Since Monday smaller companies have outperformed blue chips, and this could be the start of a long-awaited change.

However, the smaller companies slump has been so prolonged that some fund man-

agers have given up hope of a significant upturn. With the exception of 1993 the sector has underperformed the FTSE 100 index in every year of this decade. A measure of the effect of this is that HSBC, the UK's biggest stock, is now worth as much as all the constituents of the small companies index put together.

Andrew Jackson of Hill Samuel sees no evidence that the trend will be reversed. "We are cautious on the prospects for smaller companies," he said. "They are far from out of the woods on sterling, and we are expecting widespread revisions in profit forecasts for 1998."

Hill Samuel's cautious stance is consistent with its belief that the UK is on the brink of a downturn. Conventional wisdom dictates that investors retreat into the safety of blue chip stocks during difficult times. This is because smaller firms are usually more vulnerable to the movements of the economy. If you believe that smaller companies funds are about to make a comeback, BEST investment recommends Schroder UK Smaller Companies, Gartmore UK Smaller Companies, Credit Suisse Smaller Companies and Invesco UK Smaller Companies.



Happy ending: but investors in the small companies sector are proving as elusive as Cinderella was after her sharp exit



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

Reservations over Royal wedding

The Royal Bank of Scotland has, at last, satisfied its urge to buy itself a building society. While some in the City may not be impressed with the results of the bank's retail therapy excursion to the West Midlands, Birmingham Midshires members can be reasonably satisfied. They may be less than thrilled with the potential payouts — £600 being a windfall of moderate proportions — but new ownership may mean a better deal for savers and borrowers who have not enjoyed the most favourable treatment.

The Midshires seems to have fallen out of love with mutualism some time ago. While other mutuals are attempting to justify their existence with more generous savers' offers and lower mortgage rates, the Midshires has been behaving more like a bank, swift to raise its mortgage rate after a base rate increase but slow to improve rates for savers. As a consequence, the Yorkshire Building Society claims that its borrowers with £50,000 loans paid £254 less last year than their counterparts at the Midshires.

Many Midshires customers have stayed faithful only because the society was seen as a takeover target. The Royal Bank must woo them to ensure that they do not decamp to competitors once they have pocketed their bonuses. The bank cannot afford to be left with only those borrowers with arrears and negative equity who would not be welcomed by other lenders.

Executives at other societies happy to be mutual were indecently pleased by the Midshires news. They believe that the departure of this faithless mutual will enhance the image of mutualism and its average rates. Already the gap between the mutuals and the converted societies is becoming more defined. The new loan rates of the Halifax (8.45 per cent) and the Nationwide (8.10 per cent) are but one example. At the new banks, the interest rate margin, the crucial gap between savers' and mortgage rates, is more than 2 per cent. Some mutuals can boast a margin of around 1.20 per cent.

But the societies should beware complacency. It is now rumoured that the Halifax will use some of its plentiful cash to deliver more generous savers' rates. The fun is just beginning.

Time to tackle Net cheats

THE credit card oils the wheels of modern living. Many who disapprove of the steep rates charged by card companies keep a flexible friend purely to book travel and cinema tickets. In their advertising, Barclaycard and its kin extol this convenience. They do not mention, however, the risks we run when we part with card details over the telephone.

Alec Evans, a reader of the Times, found that his Visa debit card had been used to make purchases over the Internet (see page 31) and was understandably mystified. Although he has sometimes shopped by telephone, he has never surfed the Net. His bank could give no explanation.

Already we pay for card frauds through higher bank charges and interest rates. As the anonymous world of the Internet provides infinite new opportunities for abuse, it seems that we must also be prepared to foot the bill for cyber-thefts. Visa is introducing guidelines to encourage retailers to check the identities of Internet cardholders. But few are persuaded that these will solve the problem. Until some technology is devised to combat the cheaters, those who order goods over the phone would be wise to check their card statements with more vigour.

Low Cost Life Assurance

£100,000 Guaranteed Cover,
20 Year Term

MEN AGED 30 (NON SMOKER)

Eagle Star	£10.26
Guardian	£10.50
Legal & General	£10.90
Virgin Direct	£10.93

WOMEN AGED 30 (NON SMOKER)

Eagle Star	£7.95
Virgin Direct	£8.13
Guardian	£8.30
Legal & General	£8.50

Monthly Premiums. Age next Birthday. Sample rates only, available age 18 to 64. Source: Term Direct, 3/8/97.



EAGLE STAR

0800 77 66 66
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

PENSIONS and LIFE ASSURANCE...
DIRECTLY BY TELEPHONE

The plan must end before your 70th birthday. These figures are based on cover acceptable at ordinary rates. The plan is also available for ages 18 to 64 next birthday for various terms of cover. Full written details are available on request. For your protection, your call to Eagle Star may be recorded. Eagle Star Life Assurance Company Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information or advice will only be provided on Eagle Star products.



3.5%

ARE YOUR SAVINGS STILL DREAMING OF A BIG FUTURE?

Then it's time to wake up to the benefits of The Royal Bank of Scotland International's new Offshore Gold 60 Savings Account. Take a look at what this high interest account can do for your money. We think you'll agree: it's a dream come true.

THE GOLD 60 ACCOUNT IS OPEN TO UK RESIDENTS.

Mr Lisa Milne, The Royal Bank of Scotland International, Offshore Banking Centre, P.O. Box 678, 39-43 Bath Street, St. Helier, Jersey JE4 8YN.
Fax: 01334 285388. Please send me further information on The Offshore Gold 60 Savings Account and an application form.

Name _____ Address _____
Country _____ Postcode _____
Tel No _____ Fax No _____
Reference: The Times 16/8/97

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND INTERNATIONAL

INTEREST RATES: £2K - £10K - 3.5% A.Y.O. - £25K - £50K - 4.5% A.Y.O. - £50K - £100K - 5.5% A.Y.O. - £100K - £250K - 6.5% A.Y.O. - £250K - £500K - 7.5% A.Y.O. - £500K - £1M - 8.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 9.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 10.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 11.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 12.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 13.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 14.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 15.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 16.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 17.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 18.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 19.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 20.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 21.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 22.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 23.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 24.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 25.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 26.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 27.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 28.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 29.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 30.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 31.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 32.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 33.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 34.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 35.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 36.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 37.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 38.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 39.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 40.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 41.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 42.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 43.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 44.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 45.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 46.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 47.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 48.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 49.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 50.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 51.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 52.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 53.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 54.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 55.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 56.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 57.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 58.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 59.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 60.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 61.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 62.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 63.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 64.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 65.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 66.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 67.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 68.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 69.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 70.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 71.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 72.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 73.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 74.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 75.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 76.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 77.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 78.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 79.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 80.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 81.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 82.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 83.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 84.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 85.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 86.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 87.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 88.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 89.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 90.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 91.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 92.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 93.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 94.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 95.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 96.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 97.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 98.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 99.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 100.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 101.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 102.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 103.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 104.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 105.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 106.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 107.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 108.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 109.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 110.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 111.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 112.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 113.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 114.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 115.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 116.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 117.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 118.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 119.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 120.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 121.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 122.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 123.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 124.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 125.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 126.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 127.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 128.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 129.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 130.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 131.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 132.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 133.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 134.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 135.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 136.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 137.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 138.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 139.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 140.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 141.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 142.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 143.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 144.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 145.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 146.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 147.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 148.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 149.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 150.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 151.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 152.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 153.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 154.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 155.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 156.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 157.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 158.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 159.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 160.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 161.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 162.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 163.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 164.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 165.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 166.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 167.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 168.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 169.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 170.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 171.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 172.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 173.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 174.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 175.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 176.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 177.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 178.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 179.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 180.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 181.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 182.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 183.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 184.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 185.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 186.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 187.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 188.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 189.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 190.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 191.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 192.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 193.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 194.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 195.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 196.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 197.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 198.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 199.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 200.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 201.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 202.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 203.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 204.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 205.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 206.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 207.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 208.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 209.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 210.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 211.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 212.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 213.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 214.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 215.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 216.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 217.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 218.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 219.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 220.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 221.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 222.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 223.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 224.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 225.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 226.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 227.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 228.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 229.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 230.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 231.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 232.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 233.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 234.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 235.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 236.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 237.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 238.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 239.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 240.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 241.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 242.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 243.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 244.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 245.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 246.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 247.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 248.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 249.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 250.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 251.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 252.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 253.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 254.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 255.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 256.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 257.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 258.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 259.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 260.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 261.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 262.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 263.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 264.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 265.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 266.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 267.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 268.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 269.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 270.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 271.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 272.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 273.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 274.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 275.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 276.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 277.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 278.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 279.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 280.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 281.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 282.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 283.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 284.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 285.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 286.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 287.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 288.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 289.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 290.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 291.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 292.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 293.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 294.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 295.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 296.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 297.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 298.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 299.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 300.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 301.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 302.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 303.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 304.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 305.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 306.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 307.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 308.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 309.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 310.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 311.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 312.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 313.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 314.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 315.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 316.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 317.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 318.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 319.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 320.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 321.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 322.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 323.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 324.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 325.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 326.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 327.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 328.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 329.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 330.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 331.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 332.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 333.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 334.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 335.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 336.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 337.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 338.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 339.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 340.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 341.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 342.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 343.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 344.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 345.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 346.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 347.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 348.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 349.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 350.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 351.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 352.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 353.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 354.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 355.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M - 356.5% A.Y.O. - £100M - £250M - 357.5% A.Y.O. - £250M - £500M - 358.5% A.Y.O. - £500M - £1M - 359.5% A.Y.O. - £1M - £2M - 360.5% A.Y.O. - £2M - £5M - 361.5% A.Y.O. - £5M - £10M - 362.5% A.Y.O. - £10M - £20M - 363.5% A.Y.O. - £20M - £50M - 364.5% A.Y.O. - £50M - £100M

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997

In need of a safety Net

The danger of investing money through the Internet was illustrated last week by the collapse of the European Union Bank, a company based in Antigua that offered high rates of interest to savers.

The failure of the bank, which was owned by two Russians who have disappeared, will leave many wealthy savers round the world out of pocket. They may have been attracted to the bank because it promised customers complete confidentiality — a main enshrined in Antigua law. It also offered interest rates that were three times the rates offered by UK banks.

Anyone in the UK who invested through the bank will not be protected by any of the various safety mechanisms that can give savers peace of mind about their cash. For example, when BCCI, the international bank, collapsed in 1991, 16,000 UK-based savers received a total of £78 million in compensation under the terms of the Deposit Protection Scheme — the scheme administered by the Bank of England. They received this because, unlike the European Union Bank, BCCI was authorised by the Bank of England.

For UK regulators, policing financial companies and financial transactions on the Internet presents something of a nightmare. It is very cheap for companies

Caroline Merrell looks into why purchasing financial products and services by computer can be fraught with danger

to set up sites and it is a very cost-efficient way of reaching millions of people. Many UK-based financial services companies have spotted the potential of the Internet as a method of selling more of their products without having to provide expensive distribution outlets, such as high street branches or salesmen. For example, Garmore, Fidelity and Mercury all allow consumers to buy unit trusts and Peps through the Internet.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, pointed out that regulation in this country tended to be focused on the advice given concerning the financial product; where no advice is given and purchases are made on an execution-only basis, then policing schemes becomes much tougher. The SIB pointed out that the Internet allowed consumers to buy stocks and unit trust equivalents from unrecognised markets

such as Russia. Information on the viability or otherwise of stocks is bound to be scarce, and while investing through a Russian broker is safer than it was, investors do not enjoy protection under the Financial Services Act.

Even highly regulated markets like the US should be treated with some trepidation. Last year Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, spearheaded a promotional campaign about Nasdaq, an American market where the shares in some of the world's most highly speculative technology companies are traded. The TV campaign for Nasdaq also carried an Internet address.

The SIB, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) and the Securities and Futures Association (SFA) all have sites on the Internet, giving investors guidelines on putting money through Internet-advised financial companies. An SIB spokesman said: "One of the most important things to do is to make sure that the company is authorised, which can be checked through the SIB central register. If an investment looks too good to be true, then it probably is." He refused to say how many investigations are currently being conducted on companies on the Internet. He added that it received many of its tip-offs from those surfing the Net.

Worried by use of number

Visa, the credit card network, says that the Internet is not a safe place for financial transactions. One reader of *The Times* was pushed hundreds of pounds into debt through Internet fraud on his Abbey National Visa debit card.

Alec Evans, 80, does not own a computer, so he was baffled when he received a letter from the Abbey National claiming that he was overdrawn. He said: "A visit to the local branch disclosed that five unauthorised debits had been made." The five withdrawals were related to three different companies on the Internet. Later, another two withdrawals were made.

The amount taken, in US dollars, amounts to more than £200. Abbey National immediately refunded Mr Evans. He said that he had never made a purchase over the Internet — he does not even own a computer. Abbey National was not able to supply an adequate explanation for the misuse of its customer's card number. An Abbey spokeswoman said: "It is unclear how this happened. He could have been overheard giving out his number, or his details could have fallen into the wrong hands."



Mystery debits: Alec Evans does not even own a computer

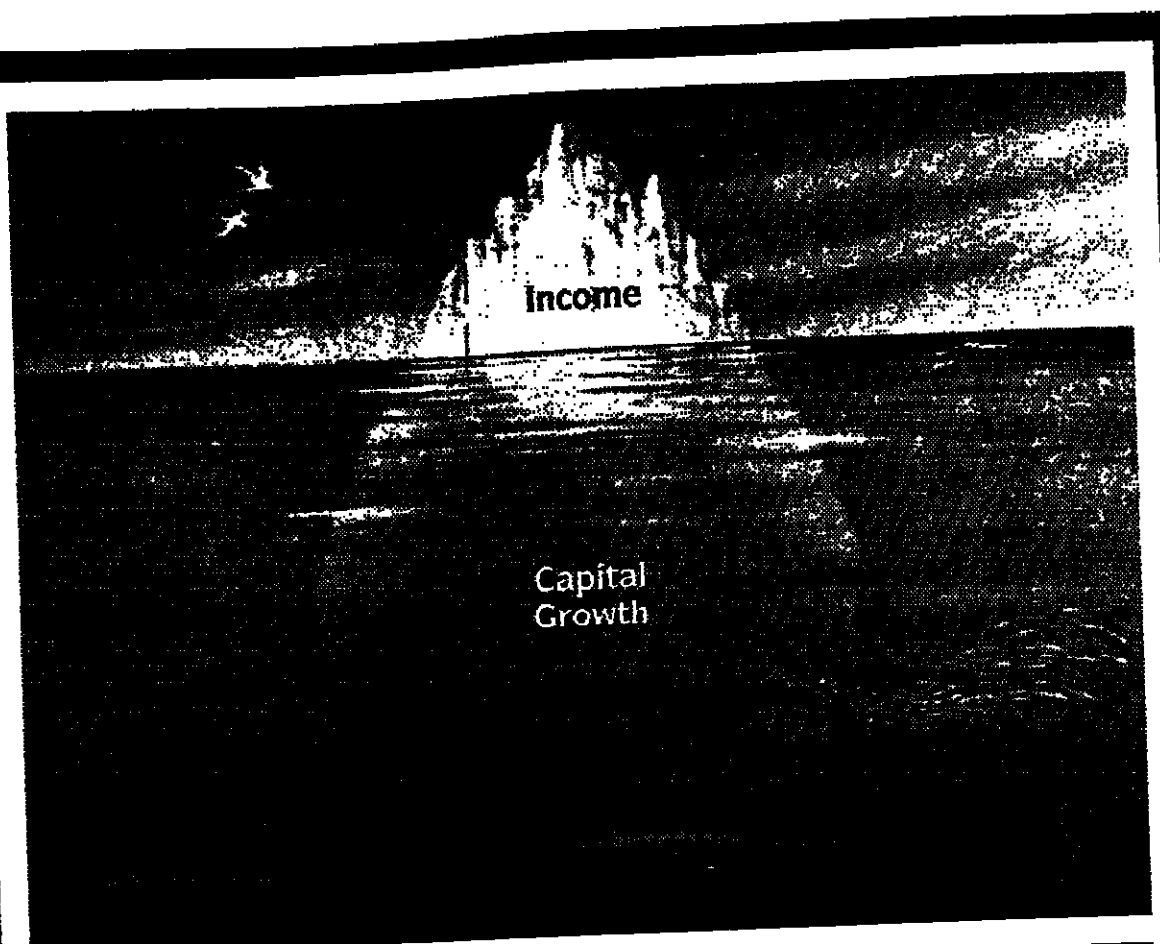
RBS still on the lookout

Continued from page 29
shareholders would not have welcomed this dilution of their holdings.

However, many in the City do not believe that RBS has found itself a good buy, because some of the loans acquired by Birmingham Midshires in its multiple purchases of other lenders' mortgage books may not be of the highest quality.

Recently, Birmingham Midshires has preferred to expand by acquiring loan books, rather than selling more of its own mortgages. Over a three-year period, it has had no organic growth.

One analyst also doubted whether RBS will be able to attract other societies to join its organisation. Under the terms of the takeover, the Birmingham Midshires will retain its own brand, product range and head office for three years. But it is likely that other societies would be required to lose their identities immediately. The analyst said: "If there are other societies queuing up to demutualise, then they are not looking for that sort of partner."



There's more to the Mercury Income Fund than meets the eye

On the surface, the Mercury Income Fund's record of rising income is impressive, but look deeper and you'll also find outstanding capital growth. Together they make the Mercury Income Fund one of the top performing income funds available. £10,000 invested at launch has paid a total income of £12,576, and the capital would now be worth over £44,000. It's performance like this that has made Mercury Investment Week's Fund Management Group of the year.

Save up to £120

For more information on the Mercury Income Fund and a special 2% discount worth up to £120, call us now, return the coupon or contact your financial adviser.

0800 882 884

To: Brochure Requests, Mercury Investment Services Ltd, FREEPOST KE4930, London EC4A 4DQ. Please send me details of the Mercury Income Fund. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING USING BLOCK CAPITALS. Ref: TMS4937

Title _____
Surname _____
Forenames in full _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

MERCURY
ASSET MANAGEMENT

*Source: Micropal. Based on the selling price on 1st August 1997. Five year figures: capital growth, £19,375; income received, £2,541. ■ The value of investments may fluctuate and is not guaranteed. ■ Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. ■ 2% discount on the buying price of units for lump sum investments in the Mercury 1997/8 PEP. ■ The tax treatment of PEPs may be changed under future legislation. ■ The Mercury Income Fund is managed by Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (regulated by IMRO) and the Personal Investment Authority (PIA). ■ Issued by Mercury Asset Management plc. ■ The Mercury PEPs are managed by Mercury Asset Management plc (regulated by IMRO). ■ Issued by Mercury Investment Services Ltd, 33 King William Street, London EC4A 4DQ, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and represents only the Mercury Marketing Group and its packaged products which include unit trusts, PEPs and pensions. ■ For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

"WE MOVED TO EXETER FOR A BETTER DEAL IN PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE."



Whether you already have Private Medical Insurance or are just considering it, you should think about moving to Exeter Friendly Society.

That's because we make a policy of never increasing your subscriptions simply because you get older.

Indeed, the age you join at is the age you stay at.

Because we are a friendly society, all surpluses are utilised to improve benefits for Members and the absence of "age related" subscription increases can save you huge amounts over the years.

To find out more about our comprehensive 50+ Plan — one of the healthiest on the market — simply telephone, fax or complete the coupon.

REMEMBER—THE AGE YOU JOIN AT IS THE AGE YOU STAY AT.

Subscriptions will increase to reflect rising costs of treatment and developments in medical expertise and technology.

THE EFFECT OF AGE RELATED INCREASES WHEN YOU JOIN AT AGE 50.

JOINING AGE	EXETER PREFERRED PLAN	SIMILAR PLAN FROM ANOTHER INSURER	ANNUAL SAVING
50	£43.94	£51.89	£95.40
RENEWAL AGE			
55	£53.47	£66.35	£154.56
60	£65.07	£88.53	£281.52
65	£79.19	£127.71	£582.24
70	£96.37	£179.72	£1000.20
75	£117.28	£248.14	£1570.32

Figures for joining age 50 are current rates. All other ages are based on current rates and assume a 4% annual subscription increase every year for both plans.

If you are under 80 years of age please telephone 01392 477210, fax 01392 477235 or complete this coupon for details.

Mr/Ms/Ms _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Tel: _____
Current insurer _____
Renewal date _____
Age of people to be included _____

50 EXETER
PLAN FRIENDLY SOCIETY
BEECH HILL HOUSE, WALNUT GARDENS, EXETER, DEVON EX4 4DC

LOOKING FOR A TOP RATE OF INTEREST AND INSTANT ACCESS? THINK FIRST...



For top rates one building society is always 'First'.
First National Building Society.

Our Postal Demand Account offers you instant access and an interest rate of up to 6.90% gross per annum; your money isn't locked away; and you can manage your account from the comfort of your own home.

LOOK HOW MUCH YOU CAN EARN

BALANCE	GROSS CAR
£50,000 +	6.90%
£25,000 +	6.80%
£10,000 +	6.70%
£5,000 +	6.60%
£2,500 +	6.50%

Rates effective from 16/8/97

SECURITY AND CONVENIENCE
First National Building Society is one of the longest established building societies operating in the UK and Ireland. Our postal account service is fast, friendly and efficient.

MINIMUM BALANCE JUST £2,500
INTEREST PAID ANNUALLY
INSTANT ACCESS
NO NOTICE REQUIRED

WHY WE PAY MORE INTEREST
We can afford to be more generous with our interest rates because by providing you with a direct service we don't have the expense of operating and staffing a chain of UK high street branches.

FIRST NATIONAL
BUILDING SOCIETY
Registered in Ireland

First National Building Society is a signatory to the Banking Code of Practice and is also a member of the UK Banking Ombudsman Scheme.

FOR FULL DETAILS CALL US FREE
9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday

0800 558844

AF10

Gross rate shown is the annual contractual rate of interest payable net taking account of the deduction of income tax at the basic rate. Interest will be paid net of basic rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-tax payers) OR, subject to the required certification, gross. If the balance falls below £500 a variable rate (currently 2% gross, 1.5% net) will apply. All rates shown are compounded annual rate (CAR). CAR is equivalent to the rate annualised to take account of the compounding of interest paid other than once a year.

FOR A PROFITABLE FUTURE MAKE CUTS HERE.

If you want the chance to be wealthy in the future, you should be making a few cuts now - all around our coupon.

Why? Because we can offer you a range of high performing funds, from the low risk UK Equity Fund, a top performing fund since launch*, to higher risk, specialised funds, such as the Pacific Growth Fund, up 195% over the last five years**. And our Income Fund has increased its dividend each year over the last 15 years.

All you need to invest is the Schroder Investment Collection, your complete guide to all our funds. So pick up those scissors now - these could be the last cuts you ever need to make.

0800 002 000
Quoting ref 593

TO: SCHRODERS
CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT.
82ND FLOOR, LONDON
LONDON EC4A 4PD

Please send me my free copy of the Schroder Investment Collection. Alternatively, contact your usual Financial Adviser.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of Birth / / _____

From what source does your investment money usually come?

Salary ☐

Retirement package ☐

A switch from another investment ☐

Other (please state): _____

Source: Mifflin buying price to selling price, net income reinvested to 1.97. *From 3.1.72 (earliest figures available) 1115. **From 3.8.82. +109.83.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise, and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 83 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL. Regulated by IMRO. www.schroders.com

Schroders

Karen Zagor delights in the experience of buying a house in Canada



Property boom: the power and drive of Toronto's estate agents help to make buying and selling quick and painless

Buying a house can be as speedy and painless as buying a new car. I know because last week I bought a house in 24 hours. The secret is to move to Canada, where gazumping does not exist. But if the Labour Government succeeds in changing the rules of house buying and selling, then my experience may become the norm in Britain.

My husband and I had not expected to become homeowners when we landed in Toronto two weeks ago. We were merely scouting the market before moving back to Canada in the autumn. We had severely underestimated the drive and the power of Toronto real estate agents.

In London, our quest for a home of our own had been thwarted by the inertia of estate agents. We met resistance at every stage. Most agents would not show properties on Saturday afternoons, Sundays or after 7pm during the week - an arrangement which is almost useless for working couples. Although we were listed with about ten agencies, our phone rarely rang. Yet we knew there were homeowners desperately trying to sell. In the end we gave up and rented a flat.

The Toronto experience could not have been more different. Our plane landed at midday on the Saturday of a Bank Holiday weekend. When we left a late afternoon message on an estate agent's answering machine, we expected to hear back from her on Tuesday. We were mistaken. Within an hour Joanna, Byro had called. Within three hours she had arranged for us to see four houses on the Sunday.

Canadian real estate agents have certain advantages over

New home could be yours in just one day

their British counterparts. First, they really want to make money and will work long hours and sometimes sacrifice some of their own commission to close a deal. Secondly, they have more power at the contract-signing stage. Canadians do not need a lawyer to process their property purchase.

Canadians do not need to employ lawyers to process their property purchases

Once the property is on the MLS, the listing agent must share the commission with the agent who shows, and subsequently sells, the property.

For a seller, MLS means that more people can find out about your home. For a buyer, MLS is brilliant. Instead of dealing with a multitude of

estate agents, you tend to look with one agent exclusively. Your agent enters your needs on the computer, such as the size of house, location and garden - and brings

up the details of all suitable properties. If you see a "For Sale" sign in front of a house you like the look of, your agent will find out all the necessary information and arrange a viewing.

Agents may earn commission from the seller, but they work hard for the buyer. Joanna showed us 20 houses

before we found one we liked. By the end of the week she knew our taste, which saved us looking at properties she knew we would hate.

By Thursday evening, we had found our house. On Friday morning, after a second viewing, we made our offer through Joanna. During the rest of the day and into the evening, she shuttled between us and the buyer as we negotiated. Our first two offers, each written into a contract, were rejected. Finally, at 9pm, when only £51,000 (£454) separated our offer from the owner's reduced asking price, Joanna cut her commission and the deal was done.

On Saturday morning we boarded the plane to London, contract in hand, knowing that we had a binding agreement. Under Canadian law, once a written offer is officially accepted, the owner cannot accept higher bids unless he receives an unconditional offer. Our offer was conditional on financing and an acceptable home survey.

During the week in Toronto we had prearranged a mortgage, and on Monday we wired our deposit from London. The survey was completed on Wednesday night.

We were surprised at how quickly everything could be arranged and how reasonable the fees are. Our total expenditure was £55,321 (£2,622) less, £3,785 in land transfer tax (the equivalent of stamp duty) and £3,321 for the survey. Our only risk was that the survey would reveal a fatal flaw in the building, making us retract our offer. If that had happened, we would have lost the survey fee only. If we pulled out after a satisfactory survey, we would have lost our deposit.

BIGGER CASH PAYMENTS FOR ENDOWMENTS! CALL 0181 207 1666.

The UK's biggest buyer pays top prices for policies. Your policy must be at least 3 years old and satisfy our selection criteria.

FAX: 0181 207 4950

SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC
SEC House, 49 Theobald St, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 4RZ.

EARN 10% p.a. OR MORE for 10 YEARS plus CAPITAL BONUS with a LOW RISK GIP™ (GEARED INVESTMENT PLAN)

THE INSURANCE POLICY TRADING COMPANY LTD

22 CHURCH STREET, GODALMING, GU7 1EW

01483 427575 : Fax 01483 418866

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

For more information on our investment services, please contact us on 0181 207 1666. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value of the policy and the cash value of the policy will fluctuate. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise, and investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

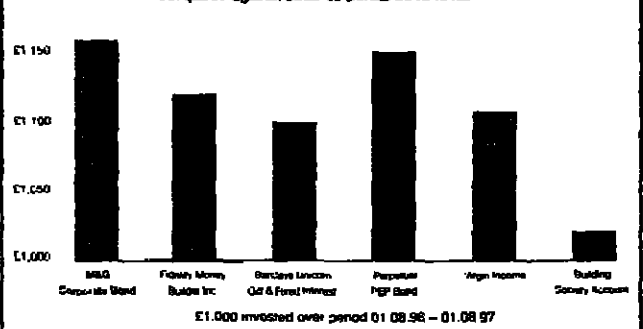
Avg. Building Society Account

4.7%*

M&G Corporate Bond PEP Fund

6.3%*

THE M&G CORPORATE BOND FUND compared against other corporate bond funds



A sensible way to earn a higher income than a bank or building society, with the added advantage of being tax free is to take out a Personal Equity Plan invested in The M&G Corporate Bond Fund.

This has been the top performing corporate bond fund in its sector over the last three years**

Following the recent Budget, a PEP still provides you with the ability to save within a tax free environment.

The M&G Corporate Bond PEP Fund offers you:

- An immediate high income
- No initial charge
- No withdrawal fee (after 5 years)
- No UK tax on investment

For further information on The M&G Corporate Bond PEP Fund, call

0345 321 011

(Lines are open 24 hours, 7 days a week) or return the coupon below.

The M&G Group, Bristol BS26 7ET. Please send me information on The M&G Corporate Bond PEP Fund

NAME (PRINT) _____ SURNAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

M&G

"When you call us you get more than just a quote"

Nigel Bruce
Agent - Head of Home Insurance
THE MAN FROM THE PRU.

You could win a BMW and save around £100 when you call us for a free quote on Home Insurance.



Call for a free Home Insurance quote
0800 300 300
Quoting ref: PRS 150. Closing date 29th August 1997

PRUDENTIAL

UP TO 7.00% GROSS P.A. (VARIABLE) FROM THE POSTAL SO

Time the Coventry to deliver a high rate of interest - post haste. You get great returns, with only 50 days notice, and the extra convenience of a postal account enables you to handle everything from home. And, unlike many competitors, we pay interest immediately, from the day you invest with us. After all, we have your very best interests at heart.

Balance	Annual Interest Rates	Net Rate
	Gross p.a.	Net Rate
£40,000 plus	7.00%	5.60%
£5,000 plus	6.75%	5.40%

The minimum opening balance for all new postal accounts is £5,000 which must be maintained for the life of the account.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION PACK CALL US NOW ON

0345 665522

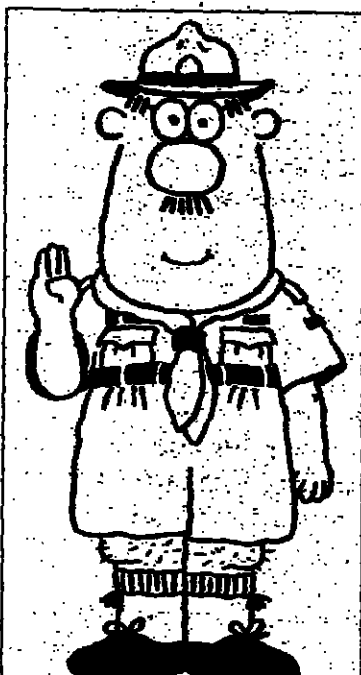
LINES ARE OPEN: 9am to 9pm - 7 days a week

COVENTRY
BUILDING SOCIETY
TLC NOT PLC

HEAD OFFICE: Coventry Building Society, Economic House, 20 St. John's Street, Coventry CV1 5SR.
Notes: 1. Interest rates are variable and subject to change. 2. Interest will be paid out of the interest earned on the account. 3. Details of interest earned and interest payable will be sent to you by post. 4. Interest is calculated on the basis of the actual number of days in the month.

Revenue poised for investigations

An estimated 7,500 taxpayers have already been selected at random to have their tax affairs investigated under the new self-assessment regime, the Inland Revenue revealed this week. They may be among the 5.5 million people who have not yet filed their 1996-97 return, but their names are held



Be prepared for Hector's inquiries

"under lock and key" at local tax offices.

If you are one of the eight million people who have to fill in a tax return, you have a one in 1,000 chance of being randomly picked. If you are self-employed you will then be subjected to a full inquiry, with your books and records scrutinised.

However, if you are an employee whose main income is taxed at source or your tax affairs are simple, you may never even know your name came up because the Revenue already has most of the information it needs to check your return.

The Revenue justifies random checking of returns on the grounds that it will instil fear of detection into tax dodgers and will help tax officials to assess the effectiveness of their assessment of high-risk returns. It has rejected calls to tell taxpayers if their names come up, arguing that it wants to maintain "the neutral, fact-finding and non-confrontational approach" we would like to see in inquiry work.

A further 40,000 to 50,000 taxpayers will find their completed returns subject to inquiries by the taxman. Some of these people may also be on the random list. Returns will be chosen according to the risk the Revenue thinks it runs that they are incomplete or incorrect. Under self-assessment, the Revenue has new powers to make further inquiries about any tax return. Inspectors will not wait until the final deadline of the

end of January 1998 to start inquiries, and 200 have already started. There are two types of inquiry, full and aspect. A full inquiry means all your books and records will be gone through and your whole tax return scrutinised. An aspect inquiry will concentrate on certain parts of the return, such as personal pension relief or capital gains tax calculations. But you could face a full inquiry if the aspect inquiry throws up other discrepancies.

Most self-employed people and businesses can expect full inquiries, while those with simpler affairs can probably expect an aspect enquiry. Bernadette Hurcombe, of the Revenue's self-assessment compliance division, said: "Not all inquiries will be deep and searching. Some are simple and easy to resolve and they could result in repayment to the taxpayer."

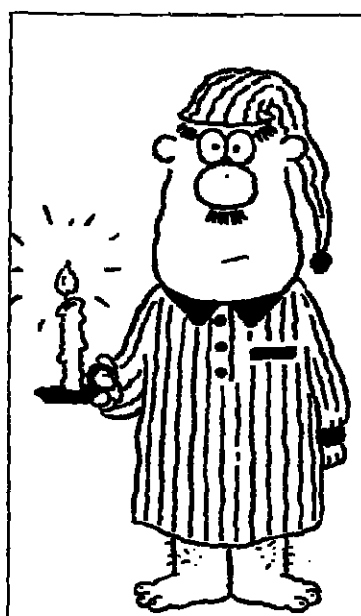
Taxpayers have to be given formal notice of an inquiry, which can start at any time until January 1999.

The Revenue attacked as "myth" suggestions that those who filed their returns early were more likely to face an inquiry. It argued that it would not make sense to discourage people from filing early, which helps to spread the processing workload. Those who file early are also more likely to have simpler tax affairs.

To date, the Revenue has received back 2.5 million of the eight million returns it has sent out, 700,000 more than expected at this stage. Of these it has processed 1.7 million. But an

estimated 6 per cent of these are wrong and have to be returned. In some cases, this has been because the taxpayer has forgotten to sign the return, in others because the Revenue cannot correct the numbers without more information.

SARA MCCONNELL



Ensure you are not caught napping

Get away from it all with offshore portfolio package

Jill Insley sizes up an attempt by Scottish Life to avoid the stress of self-assessment

Most right-minded people who have to fill in a tax return regard self-assessment as a pain. At best it will take up valuable hours to fill in the simplest return; at worst, it will fill whole weekends with aggravation and suffering before the taxpayer gives in and hands over invoices, bills and income records to an accountant.

But is the situation so bad that it warrants moving your investment portfolio offshore? Scottish Life International thinks so. The company says that maintaining accurate income records and tracking gains for every investment within an actively managed portfolio of unit trusts and investment trusts could now be "an unbecomingly and administrative burden for many UK investors". Those who fail to keep adequate documents could face fines of up to £3,000 per missing item.

Scottish Life International claims that its new offshore investment bond, the Self Investment Portfolio, can save investors from all this stress. The bond itself is not an investment. Instead, it acts as a "wrapper" for the funds the investor chooses from a list of more than 100 approved management groups.

From these, Scottish Life International has nominated ten firms as "elite" investment managers with whom it has negotiated discounts off the normal fund charges. Unsur-

prisingly, these include Scottish Life and Kleinwort Benson, the company's backers.

Like all investment bonds, the Self Investment Portfolio is classed as a non-income producing asset by the Inland Revenue. This means it does not have to be entered on an investor's self-assessment tax return unless the investor takes an income of more than 5 per cent of the initial investment in any tax year or cashes in the entire bond.

To ensure that investors can withdraw small tranches of money easily, the bond can be split into a maximum of 100 different policies, each with a minimum value of £2,500.

The bond is based offshore in the Isle of Man and offers the further advantage of allowing investors' money to grow tax-free.

Although the gains derived from offshore bonds are liable to tax once they are realised and brought into the UK, Scottish Life International says medium to long-term investors are likely to find offshore bonds more tax-efficient.

However, any advantage that UK resident investors gain is likely to be wiped out as soon as they start paying the bond's charges. The 8 per cent set-up charge is high compared with the average 5 per cent initial charge for UK-based unit trusts. The company also makes a £300 annual policy fee (linked to the Isle of Man RPI) and a 0.25 per cent annual management charge. Someone investing the minimum



Paradise lost: the charges make Scottish Life's offshore investment bond less than idyllic

£50,000 would pay £5,625 in charges over the first five years, even before taking the underlying fund charges into account.

In comparison, Clark Whitehill, the chartered accountants, estimates that it would charge about £400 a year (or £2,000 over five years) to organise the tax return for a £50,000 investment portfolio. Ian Millward, of Chase de Vere Investments, says: "It's no more expensive than other offshore companies. The whole offshore industry oper-

ates this way, and it's a pretty shoddy way of doing it."

John Edwards, of Berry Birch & Noble, adds that offshore companies tend to make all kinds of additional charges. Mr Edwards reckons that clients who are resident in the UK should stick to onshore-based investments. He says: "If you have got £50,000, you can probably buy something better."

Score: ★★ Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

NOW you can get to your savings in no time at all.

Legal & General

0500 111 200

Unit is a new 100% Man-Fit and Man-Spot 100% Unit. To help us improve our service to you, all calls are recorded. Legal & General Bank Limited. Please quote ref: B023 DLS.

3

The PEP that likes to say

NO

NO salesmen. NO commission. NO jargon. NO hassle.

Virgin direct personal financial service

0345 900 900

Open seven days a week from 8am to 10pm

Growth PEP minimum investment £50 a month or £1,000 lump sum. Income PEP £1,000 lump sum.

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back all the money you invest. For your security, all calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded and randomly monitored.

THE WOOLWICH DIRECT POSTAL 60 ACCOUNT UP TO 7.40% GROSS PA.

FIRST CLASS RETURNS FROM THE WOOLWICH.

	GROSS PAID ANNUALLY
£100,000+	7.40%
£50,000 - £99,999	7.15%
£25,000 - £49,999	6.85%
£10,000 - £24,999	6.75%
£5,000 - £9,999	6.55%
£2,500 - £4,999	6.40%

Introducing the Postal 60 Account from Woolwich Direct. The highest quality of service because it's the Woolwich. Straightforward and convenient because it's direct, to your door.

Operating your account by post means we can offer you higher rates on a minimum investment of £2,500. What's more, you can make one no-penalty, instant withdrawal a year. For a higher interest rate from the Woolwich, direct to your door, call us free now quoting ref: TP168.

Get much more with WOOLWICH DIRECT 0800 60 60 40

For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded. 9.30am - 8.00pm MON - FRI. 9.00am - 3.00pm SAT. 10.00am - 2.00pm SUN. e-mail address: woolwich-direct@e-mail.com

Gross rates are monthly income: £2,500- £6,225, 6.22%; £6,225- £10,000, 6.55%; £10,000- £25,000, 6.75%; £25,000- £50,000, 6.85%; £50,000- £100,000, 7.15%. Balances below £2,500 earn annual interest of 1.25% gross and monthly interest at 1.25% gross. Interest will be payable out of the lower rate of income tax currently 20% (or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability of credit, a claim may be made to the taxing Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower of basic tax bands, the tax deducted will exceed their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable to the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Interest will be calculated daily, from the bank's working day after receipt of a deposit by cheque. Each deposit will be accepted. Proof of identity will be required. The first withdrawal made in each calendar year of up to £10,000 may be made without notice or penalty. Further withdrawals may be made immediately subject to the bank's 60 day notice. The account can be closed without penalty by giving 60 days' written notice. It is a withdrawal if made where you incur a penalty, you will not achieve the stated interest rate. Interest rates are subject to variation. The minimum investment is £2,500. Full terms and conditions available on request. Registered Office: Woolwich plc, Watling Street, London SE18 6PP. Registered in England No. 3255599. P168

Selling your Endowment? Want more money and the best service? Phone Neville James

- Prompt valuations, firm offers
- Top prices for suitable policies
- Professional, specialist staff, 7 days a week

PLEASE CALL NOW 01243 52 00 00 EVERY DAY 8 AM - 8 PM

Neville JAMES

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Member of The Association of Policy Market-Makers.

Pensions spoken plainly.

Ask a straightforward question about pensions - or even a complicated one - and we'll

give you a straightforward answer. Our experts will give an honest assessment of

your current position, answer questions or give advice - all by phone, 24 hours a day,

364 days a year. What could be plainer than that? SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Please call 0345 6789 10

or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

Fidelity to accept last-minute Peps

Fidelity Investments is extending its opening hours until midnight tomorrow to accept last-minute Woolwich Pep applications. Fidelity will accept, at no charge, Woolwich conversion shares into its No-cost Windfall Pep, a general Pep which offers investors the option to retain, exchange or sell shares. Share certificates from the 10,000 Woolwich customers who have yet to receive their certificates will also be accepted as long as the certificates clearly identify the shares as being free. Call 0800 414171.

If you are approaching retirement age or are already retired, a new book written by Rosemary Brown could prove useful. In addition to highlighting the variety of opportunities available — from lifetime annuities to voluntary work — *Your Retirement — How to Make the Most of It* includes comprehensive advice on tax planning, pensions, investment and money-saving ideas, social security benefits and wills. It is published by Kogan Page on August 20, priced £8.99.

The end of the summer holidays sees a 50 per cent increase in the number of people visiting a family solicitor. However, many people have no idea how to choose a legal firm. Around 15,000 solicitors regularly undertake family law cases, but only 25 per cent of these are specialists in the area, according to the Solicitors Family Law Association. The association has published a leaflet to help people thinking of divorce to choose the right solicitor. For the location of your nearest SFLA or for a copy of the leaflet, call 0345 585671.

Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, has produced a free guide to investment risk. *Some Principles of Investing* explains the fundamentals of risk and also shows the different levels of risk available and the types of investment product which cater for each risk level. Call 0345 899933.

A convenient alternative to traveller's cheques has arrived with the launch of Visa TravelMoney. This electronic traveller's cheque can be pre-loaded with holiday money and withdrawals can be made from the 341,000 cash machines in 112 countries. The card is available from Thomas Cook by calling 01733 318900.

LIZANNE ROSE

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS				
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS				
Clydesdale Bank 0800 445265	Savings	Instant	£225	6.50
C&G/Rate w.r. 1.9.97/0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Inst b	£1,000	7.00
Legal & General Bank 0800 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£10,000	7.00
Alliance & Leicester 0845 608860	Direct Cts Inst	Postal	£1,000	7.25

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS				
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.50
Leopold Joseph 0171 5882323	40 Day Notice	40 day p	£10,000	7.10
North Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.55
North Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£25,000	7.65

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)				
Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed + feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.65
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier + feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.55
Melton Mowbray BS 01654 63937	5 year	5 year	£1,000	7.50
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	5 year	£2,500	7.45

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS				
Credit cards	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%	7.80%	Nil
RBS 01454 0800 77770	Visa	0.79%	9.80%	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%	10.50%	Nil

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS				
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs no insurance	
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%	£183.75	£166.38	
Hamilton Direct 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£166.65	
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 628282	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56	

Nb. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. C = no interest free period. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only.

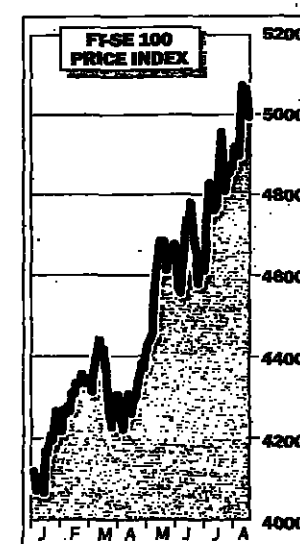
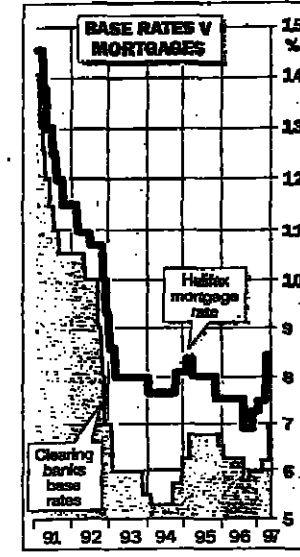
* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING.

Source: Money Facts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (1992-97) 677

PIBS				
Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
FIXED RATE				
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	118.81	7.863	100.17
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	143.15	8.121	100.13
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	159.99	8.128	100.20
Britannia	13.000%	159.21	8.165	100.42
Coventry	12.125%	153.44	7.844	100.75
First National	11.750%	142.59	8.240	100.25
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	165.19	8.097	100.23
Newcastle	10.750%	131.89	8.116	100.32
Newcastle	12.625%	155.39	8.125	100.45
North Rock	12.625%	154.64	8.164	100.14
Skipton	12.875%	155.04	8.066	100.48

FLOATING RATE				
Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Cheshire (30/09/27/03) 9.04063%	117.00	100.00	1.00	1,000
First Nat (22/09/20/03) 9.12031%	104.00	100.00	1.00	1,000

SHARE IN FOCUS: GAMES WORKSHOP				
Shares	Price	% Change	Volume	Value
Games Workshop	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100
Games Workshop	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100
Games Workshop	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100
Games Workshop	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100



NATIONAL SAVINGS						
	Gross rate	At tax rates 20% 40%	Minimum investment £	Notice	Contact	
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**	0645 645000	
Investment A/c	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-600**	0645 645000	
Income Bond*	6.00	4.80	3,600-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000	
First Opt Bonds	6.25	5.00	3,750-100,000**	1mth	0645 645000	
4th Issue Bonds	6.35		100-10,000	8day	0645 645000	
Children's Bonds	6.75		25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000	
Gen Ext Rate	3.51		100-250,000	8day	0645 645000	
Capital Bonds	6.85	5.32	3.99	100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linkeds	2.25		100-10,000	6day	0645 645000	
Pension Bonds SS	7.50	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	6day	0645 645000

* First £70 (£40) of net tax free, then gross free up to £100 / Unlimited additional rights for non-residents
 ** For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also - Investment when held for 12 months
 * For tax free - Rates gross and vide also

PENSION ANNUITIES				
Single Life (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70	
Norwich Life	£9,468	£10,476	£11,816	
Equitable Life	£9,534	£10,482	£11,875	
Royal Sun All	£9,249	£10,388	£11,691	
Sun Life	£9,207	£10,327	£11,614	
Standard Life	£9,224	£10,316	£11,732	

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)				
Single Life	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70	
Prudential	£8,865	£9,875	£10,860	
Canada Life	£8,800	£9,814	£10,840	
Generall	£8,624	£9,547	£10,816	
Norwich Life	£8,750	£9,513	£10,864	
Royal Sun All	£8,509	£9,365	£10,612	

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

LARGER LENDERS				
Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Cheltenham	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed to 1.10.99
0800 591500				
Bradford & Bingley	5.60	£15k+	85	2.10% disc-2yrs
0800 570800				
Banks				
Bank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mths
01189 510100				
Abbey National	4.99	to £125k	75	Fixed to 31.10.99
0800 555100				

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers rates by City's Guides Ltd. (01753 880862)

FREE OFFER				
For Every Investor Who Wants To Make Serious Money From The Exciting Penny Share Market				
To receive a FREE copy of PENNY SHARE GUIDE, Britain's No. 1 publication for tipping, exciting smaller company shares PLUS an exclusive FREE market report pack including details of how to claim a FREE copy of The Investor's Guide to the Stock Market. Reply today published by the Financial Times/Pennsylvania Publishing, simply.				
CALL NOW ON: 0500 823873				

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME				
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)		
Rates as at August 14, 1997				
1 Year				
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.00		
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20		
10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80*		
2 Years				
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70		
5,000	Hambro Assured	6.50		
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.60		
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60		
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70		
3 Years				
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80		
5,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30		
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.70		
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.70		
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.75		
4 Years				
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.30		
5,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35		
5 Years				
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25		
5,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70		

Source: Chamberlain & Co (0171-434 4222). Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

* Limited edition.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Unit	Price	% Change	Volume	Value
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE	1.10	+0.91	1,000	1,100



Patience will pay off

PELIDIS
PELIDIS
PELIDIS
POSTBAG

1st class

performance, for less than a stamp.

Foreign & Colonial Invested the investment trust in 1868 "to give the investor of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalist".

Growth of £1,000 invested in 1977

	Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust PLC	Unit Trust Average	Building Society Average
1977	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1982	£2,025	£1,816	£1,566
1987	£10,681	£7,222	£2,354
1992	£13,830	£7,880	£3,667
1997	£29,990	£15,537	£4,596

We charge just 5p to invest the minimum £25 a month in our Private Investor Plan savings scheme.* (Or, for example, £2 for a £1,000 lump sum.†) A small price to pay for Foreign & Colonial performance. The Plan allows you to choose from our wide range of investment trusts and even change the amount you invest and the frequency without penalty.

A first class idea from the inventors of the investment trust. Why not find out now?

Phone 01734 828 802 or Fax 01734 344 622
any time quoting the coupon code, or return the coupon.

Foreign & Colonial

To: Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd, PO Box 2,
Twyford, Berkshire RG10 9NW.

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

County _____

Postcode _____

Code P16897T _____

* Plus statutory 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty on purchase.

The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is no guide to the future. All figures sourced Micropal 30/06 77-30/06/97 Investment trust figures basic mid-market prices, net income reinvested, incl. historical 0.5% national expenses. (Actual Plan charges: 0.2% commission and 0.5% Govt. Stamp Duty). Building Society figures basic highest net rate available from Micropal (£25,000+ Account) based on total return, net income reinvested. Unit trust figures basic offer to offer, net income reinvested (incl. historical 0.5% national expenses). Foreign & Colonial Management Ltd (regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority) or its subsidiaries are the Managers of the Investment trusts.

36 UNIT TRUST PRICES

[illegible]

Equities take a tumble

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	6
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Crippled former world champion returns at helm of his own 500cc grand prix motorcycle team

Rainey battles demons within

The motorcycle was on the edge of adhesion, the verge of disaster. Wayne Rainey could feel it twitching beneath him as he opened the throttle through his favourite left-hand corner. He heard his own heartbeat, detected a delicious dryness in his throat. He saw everything in slow motion. His brain told him he was in control, but his body reminded him he was in a wheelchair. He had been ambushed by his imagination. They eventually found him beside the deserted track, weeping quietly.

Rainey will confront the demons once again this weekend as manager of his own 500cc team at the British Grand Prix at Donington Park. The referred pain he still endures, nearly four years after the accident that snapped his spine, is merely the physical manifestation of the phantoms of his past.

He has become inured to the indignities of denial and depression, but his last flashback, at Phillip Island in Australia earlier in the year, surprised him. "I thought I'd grown out of it, but it all came back to me, suddenly," he explained. "Trying to tame a 500cc bike is a bizarre experience, one like no other, and emotionally I was back on one that afternoon. I was actually watching Mick Doohan, but I'd convinced myself it was me in his place. I tell you, being able to block out the things that made me happy in my so-called first life is a great gift."

There is a suitably wistful tone to his voice, because he has undergone the catharsis of writing an unflinchingly honest autobiography, which is being launched at the Derbyshire circuit tonight. His soothing Californian accent belies the contradictions of his inner struggle. His eyes are alive, but heavily lined. His hands are expressive, but sore and cracked because of the side-effects of drugs taken to control involuntary body spasms.

Rainey was reborn at 1.29pm at Misano in Italy on September 5, 1993, when he was paralysed during a gruesome *pas de deux* with his Yamaha across a ribbed, gravel trap. In that fateful instant, his focus changed from the pursuit

MICHAEL CALVIN



of a fourth successive world championship to the painful luxury of sucking oxygen into lungs that leaked blood. He was determined not to die.

"Hey, I was on the gas. I was in the lead," he told the world from his hospital bed, through his wife, Shae. "What could be a better way to go out?" He persuaded her to forge his handwriting and fax the team for qualifying times. He would return, like a leather-clad McArthur. He would build a better life for himself. It is only now that he can smile ruefully at the memory of such naivety.

"At the beginning, I thought I was fooling everyone," he said. "The only person I was fooling was myself."

"You learn most in the deepest valleys. I was consumed by racing and, when I first got hurt, all I could think about was what I could not do. Now I'm more fulfilled. I know what I can do. I've learned through being disabled that it is possible to be a better person. I take as much as I can from each day. There are a lot of kids out there, who get hurt through no fault of their own. They need people like me, who can tell them it is OK to be in a wheelchair. Life does go on."

He was a watchword for perfection in his sport. He was its dominant figure, an intense character who found speed an intellectual challenge. The parallels with Ayrton Senna, who was one of the first to contact him in hospital, were uncanny. Each was apparently insulated by unprecedented



Rainey, once the racer supreme, holds court from his wheelchair as he and his team prepare to challenge for the British 500cc Grand Prix at Donington Park

excellence. The impact of Rainey's accident on the motorcycle community was identical to that of Senna's death on the Formula One circuit eight months later. The unthinkable had occurred, live, on Sunday afternoon television.

"I always knew it could happen to me," Rainey insisted. "Every rider thinks about it. The moment he falls off his bike and he's sliding along the ground, he's thinking about living. Safety is a No.1 concern, but if you want to win, you must put yourself in a position of risk. As my career went on, I was cornered. I didn't want second place, but I didn't want to hurt myself. There's not a lot of room for compromise."

Motorcycling is notorious for devouring its own. Veteran riders have the world-weary air of gun-fighters who fear they have defied fate once too often. Doohan, the present world champion, walks with a pronounced limp, the legacy of an accident that almost resulted in the amputation of his right leg. He has minimal movement in his right ankle and is resigned to being crippled with arthritis in middle age. He is a

multimillionaire who has nothing to prove, yet is considering joining forces with Rainey next year.

Rainey understands a rider's obsessive nature better than most. "I've lost friends through racing, but people enjoy the thrill of pushing themselves to the limit," he rationalised. "I loved the unknown, the feeling of being on the edge. It's where you feel free, where you're happy and most confident. If you're not there, it is like walking with a crutch. It just doesn't feel right."

"You don't want to be at the point where you're almost crashing, but, without realising it, you're there all the time. There comes a moment where you're out of your seat and throwing it all away. That's when you realise what's going on. It's strange, but sometimes when you hit the ground you know you're going to be okay. At Misano, I hit the ground and felt nothing."

His instincts have survived incarceration in his wheelchair. The Formula One team owner, Frank Williams, has been a constant source of psychological support, urging him to "think about your

body all the time". His former rival, Eddie Lawson, has built him a hand-controlled 150mph go-kart and he has just taken delivery of a 70mph jet boat. Speed remains a tangible expression of individuality, the hidden casualty of paralysis.

"People always say, don't look at the chair, look at the person," Rainey reflected, "but I know that when people walk up to me, they see it, rather than me. I accept there's nothing I can do about that. I've almost forgotten to be self-conscious. Sure, I miss my legs — there are times I get mad that I'm in this chair — but I realise there is no place to hide."

Except, perhaps, in the labyrinth of his imagination. It doesn't take much stimulation. "I had an out-of-body experience once," he said. "Suzuka, 1993. I was coming out of a corner and the bike was real loose, sliding sideways. I felt I was intimidating everyone. I was giggling and laughing and for about two-tenths of a second I was actually looking down on myself..." He paused, and smiled self-consciously. It was evidently time to return to the real world.



Doohan, who enjoys the high profile granted to the reigning world champion, is considering joining Rainey next year

CYCLING

Sciandri in form for World Cup

By Peter Bryan

TOMORROW could prove a day of revenge for Max Sciandri, of Great Britain, who was outmanoeuvred last year by Andrea Ferrigato, of Italy, in a two-man sprint for the line at the end of the Leeds round of the road race World Cup.

Both return for the Rochester International Classic, the seventh round of this year's ten-race series, which makes a 150-mile loop of Kent, taking in the Romney Marshes. Sciandri has been the country's most successful rider in the United Kingdom rounds of the World Cup series, winning in 1995. After a disappointing Tour de France, his form appears to be improving.

Chris Boardman is the only other Briton competing in a record entry of 152 and says that he has recovered from the shoulder injury that forced him to retire from the Tour de France. By Tour de France standards, the race is not fully, but the decisive move could come during the final three laps of the five-mile finishing circuit at Rochester, which includes a one-mile climb over cobbles.

The event has drawn most of Europe's top riders, including the world road race champion, Johan Museeuw, who is also the World Cup-holder, although he is at present outside of the world's top ten. Rolf Sørensen, of Denmark, riding for the Rabobank team, leads the competition by four points from Michele Bartoli, with Marcus Zberg, of Switzerland, trailing a further 88 points behind.

Thatcher's legacy alive and well as Chelsea take a swipe

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

turning up in another guise — the very scheme that clubs such as Chelsea so loudly condemned as unworkable. Ah well, Thatcherism, footballism... these things tend to end in tears.

'Armless bandits

After the civil war in Albania, the football championship has begun again. Just four teams from four cities are involved, but the country is still not entirely safe. The other day, Flamurtari, of Valona, travelling by coach to a match in Tirana and were ambushed by armed bandits, who came on board demanding money. Then realisation hit the bandits. "Aren't you the champions from Flamurtari?" "We are." The bandits apologised and stepped off the coach.

Super squabble

The Australian Rugby League Super League row rumbles on. The sport is split, it seems irrevocably, between the Australian Rugby League

and the so-called Super League. Attempts to bridge this terrible gap are foundering on the word "Super". At a recent meeting of the ARL clubs were told that trying to market the name Super League "would be like trying to market salmonella pie", (which are, I believe, something of a delicacy over there). The Super League itself will make no clear indication as to whether or not the word "Super" is negotiable. Hyper League, perhaps?

It gets to me every time. You walk up to Twickenham and you get your bag searched. What for? To see if you have a can of beer or a hip flask about your person. You pass through the gates and what do you see? A vast open-air bar. This is not security. This is rampant profiteering by means of physical intrusion.

They tried a similar system at the new home of Atlanta Braves, the modestly-named Turner Field, named after the Braves' modest owner, Ted Turner. People who go to American sports tend to do so with gaping holes in their stomachs and so Turner was able to charge a hefty price for the food concessions.

As part of the deal, he said that he would ban supporters from bringing their own food into the stadium. A kind of arms race developed: greater efforts at smuggling, greater force from the, as it were, customs and excise men — and ever greater prices for the food on sale in the stadium. Items confiscated included mothers' milk for babes in arms and sugar-free "cookies" for diabetics. But the hungry folk of the United States won the day, Turner — who said that even he was astonished by the food prices — has backed down. You can once again bring your own peanuts and crackjacks to the ball game.

Heaven can wait I am pleased to announce that the final of the Church Times annual cricket competition, for teams of Anglican clergy, will take place on September 4 at Southgate. Bishop David Sheppard will present the trophy in his year of retirement. The match will be between the dioceses of Chester and Oxford; the Bishop of Chester will be the twelfth man for his side. I wish them all a wonderful match and hope that the Borgla-esque machinations of the Jardine-like captain of the Vatican XI (in the past, regular opponents of mighty Tewin Irregulars) will not be repeated at Southgate.

□ The Nicolas Fawcett Shane Warne Fizzometer stands at 20.

TENNIS

Costa falls to flying Rusedski

By Our Sports Staff

TIM HENMAN returned to form and Greg Rusedski upset the seedings to reach the last eight of the Pilot Pen International tournament at New Haven, Connecticut on Thursday night.

Henman, who had been so uncertain whilst narrowly escaping against Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, earlier in the event, played with increasing assurance to overcome Brett Steven, of New Zealand, 6-4, 6-4, while Rusedski was at his ferocious best in overcoming Albert Costa, of Spain. The British No.2 may break into the world's top 20 for the first time after a 6-3, 7-6 victory in which he produced 15 aces and the fiercest commitment.

One break of service helped to earn him the first set and after he immediately recovered his loss of service at the beginning of the second, the match went with service until an enthralling tie-break.

Henman's win has earned him a match against Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, the No.1 seed. Henman's timing off the ground was far better and although he rarely served and volleyed, he rallied effectively from the back of the court and often picked his moments to approach the net cleverly.

Henman also served with penetration, producing 13 aces, two of them in succession to finish the match. "Last week, I was rock bottom and I didn't play very well in my first match here," Henman said. "However, I think that was a turning point."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Yeovil relish return to top-flight status

By Walter Gamble

WHILE Hereford United reluctantly start life in the Vauxhall Conference today with a gentle-looking assignment against Welling United, Yeovil Town, among the more enthusiastic newcomers, kick off the season with the pick of the first-day matches against Stevenage Borough.

Yeovil, with decades of frustrated ambition behind them and an abundant reservoir of potential support, are the sort of club for which the Conference and its subsequent avenue to the Football League was created. Yet twice since being founder members in 1979, they have tumbled into the Isthmian League.

Now they are restored after a two-year absence, as Isthmian League champions, under the forceful leadership of Graham Roberts, who, at 38, is only now beginning to contemplate scaling down his playing commitments. Roberts has recruited Owen Pickard, the former Plymouth Argyle and Hereford United forward, from Dorchester Town, the Dorset League club, for £15,000 as replacement for Howard Forinton, who, with Jerry Gill, a defender, moved to Birmingham City for a combined total of £100,000.

In Stevenage, the 1996 champions, Yeovil will meet a side also filling in gaps left by the loss to Nationwide League football of Barry Hayles (Bristol Rovers), Paul Barrowcliff (Brentford) and Eleonora Scioje (Macclesfield Town). Their cause, has not been helped by the loss of Paul Thompson, a forward signed for £15,000 from Gateshead, who collected a serious ankle

injury in a pre-season match. Nevertheless, for Yeovil it still promises to be a stern reintroduction to a league in which the kind of pushovers, available at lower levels will not be forthcoming.

Another intriguing encounter is the meeting at Kingfield between Woking, with John McGovern, their new manager, and Telford United, under the stewardship of Steve Daley, once a £1 million footballer, who took over when Jake King brought his short spell at Bucks Head to a close when switching to Shrewsbury Town.

Kidderminster Harriers, away to Stalybridge Celtic, and Rushden and Diamonds, at home to Northwich Victoria, start as joint-favourites with Stevenage. Kidderminster, overhauled by Macclesfield last year, have spent a modest portion of the fee paid by West Bromwich Albion for Lee Hughes on signing Ade Smith from Bromsgrove Rovers for £15,000.

Rushden, in Brian Talbot's first full season as manager, will be hoping to keep up the strong form that they showed to finish last season. They have brought in Adrian Foster, top scorer in Hereford's relegation season, to reinforce their attack.

Hereford, bidding to emulate Lincoln City and Darlington and gain an instant return to their former status, have added Neil Grayson, from Northampton Town, as a replacement. Tony Agana, has been brought forward, will be on hand to remind his colleagues what lies in store — having begun his footballing travels at Welling.

CRICKET: MID-SUMMER MADNESS AS SURREY SPINNER TAKES FIVE WICKETS IN NINE BALLS AT LORD'S

Saqlain has a party at expense of Middlesex

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

LORD'S (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 82 runs behind Middlesex

IN A baffling hour yesterday afternoon, when it seemed they were batting without a care in the world, Middlesex were suddenly gripped by a form of midsummer madness. Two wickets fell in successive balls, then another two, then three. Down came their nice little house, brick by brick, and all they could see through the rubble of 205 all out was a game that got away.

It was not a distinguished passage of play and they will curse their folly. More than most clubs, Middlesex do not like to hand Surrey any favours and, with the championship lying within their reach — just — they needed a good day to support their ambitions. They ended it on the back foot and, unless they take wickets quickly this morning, they will be trying to save the match when they bat again.

To do so, they will have to play the finger spin of Saqlain Mushtaq with a good deal more conviction than they showed yesterday, when they surrendered five wickets in nine balls. The Pakistan Test bowler, not yet 21, trussed up the batsmen in a spell from the pavilion end that did not, in all honesty, appear all that bewitching.

The last three wickets, linked by separate overs, gave him the first hat-trick by a Surrey bowler in the championship since another overseas bowler, Sylvester Clarke, performed it against Essex in 1987. Kevin Jarvis, of Kent, was the last bowler to do it at Lord's, also ten years ago.

Middlesex, who lost their openers to the modest wobblers of Ben Hollis and Ben Lacey, were



Saqlain: hat-trick

certainly complacent in their downfall. Shortly after lunch, under a canopy of blue sky, the talk was of Mike Gatting's 93rd birthday and Owais Shah's first.

Apart from pinching two unnecessary sharp singles to mid-on that a more alert fieldman than Saqlain would not have permitted, Gatting was in something like his pomp. He moved past fifty and, accompanied by his promising teenage "second", he raised the century stand. In the Middlesex dressing-room, the bowlers put their feet up and, no doubt, sipped a Thermos brew.

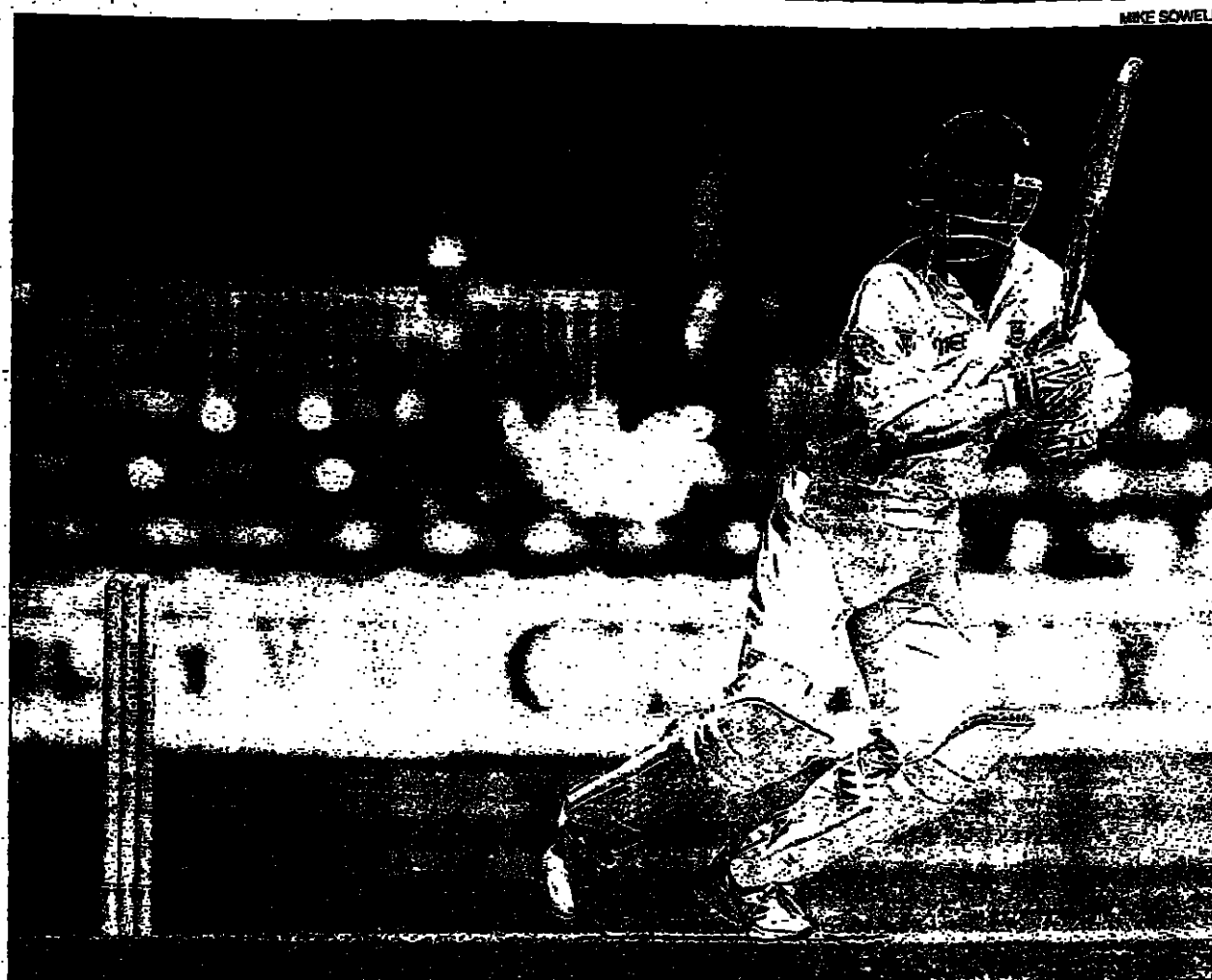
Even when Gatting went, shaping to lap Amin and presenting Thorpe with a dolly, catch at backward square leg, there was no scent of the nonsense to follow. Next ball, however, Shah rather apologetically lifted Hollis to mid-on, the boy is just out of school is immaterial — it was a ghastly stroke and he chose the worst possible moment to attempt it.

The cricket now took on the appearance of a party game. Each succeeding batsman brought a personal gift for Saqlain, who unwrapped them and declared: "How jolly kind of you." Ramprakash and Brown elected to sweep (not very well). Dutch helped one on its way to slip, Johnson trumped to mid-on a catch that took about half a minute to come down and Hewitt, charging the hat-trick ball, prodded to silly mid-on.

That was it, an innings ruined by indiscipline. From 142 for two and the prospect of a fine day's batting ahead, Middlesex found themselves at 162 for nine. Fraser slogged Saqlain for three strokes over the shorter boundary near the Tavern and had reached 30 merry runs from 27 balls when Tufnell was the last man out.

For Ramprakash, it was a particularly bad day. In the morning, as Brown tossed up, he was attending his grandfather's funeral. In the evening, he watched Butcher push Surrey past the hundred mark.

Middlesex were still bowling at 7pm, having to make up the residue of overs left by Surrey. One over from Lewis that produced two singles for Middlesex, was clocked at 5min 36sec. Appalling. Worse than that, disgraceful.



Curtis keeps a watchful eye on the ball after playing a square drive off Thomas at New Road yesterday

Curtis relishes rare taste of freedom

By PAT GIBSON

WORCESTER (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 342 for four wickets against Glamorgan

DAVID GRAVENEY, the chairman of the England selectors, and David Lloyd the coach, came to New Road yesterday to have a look at Steve James and Hugh Morris, the Glamorgan opening batsmen who have put themselves into contention for the winter tour of the West Indies, if not the final Test at the Oval next week.

They were wasting their time. James and Morris spent the day perspiring in the field while Tim Curtis, who is not going to figure in any of the selectors' deliberations, took advantage of a beautiful pitch to score his fourth century of the summer and the 43rd of his career.

Curtis was not even supposed to be playing. Now 37, he is retiring at the end of the season to become head of English at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, and was going to have to make way for the return of Graeme Hick after injury until Reuben Spirling pulled out with knee trouble.

The circumstances probably explain the way Curtis played. For years, he has been an obdurate opener, but yesterday, relieved of the pressures of having to prove

anything to either his employers or the England selectors who forgot him eight years ago, he batted with rare freedom. All the strokes that had been locked away came pouring out as he outscored even Hick in a second-wicket partnership of 178.

It was the last thing that Glamorgan needed in a week that had seen them knocked out of the NatWest Trophy in that torrid semi-final at Chelmsford and made their pursuit of their first championship since 1969 even more desperate. They have tried to strengthen the batting by leaving out Cottee and giving Mike Powell, 20, his debut, but it was the bowling that seemed undermanned.

Butcher did make an early breakthrough by having Weston leg-before, but Hick pronounced himself recovered from badly bruised fingers with three imperious boundaries before being forced to play second fiddle to the rejuvenated Curtis.

Hick was to contribute only 14 of the first fifty that they put on together, 32 to the first hundred and 65 to their eventual partnership of 178 in 48 overs before he pushed forward to a straight ball from Croft and was caught at slip.

Croft also got rid of Curtis, bowling him through a tired drive, but not before he had made 160 off 272 balls with 36 fours.

Lehmann plunders weakened attack

By JOHN THICKNESSE

PORTSMOUTH (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 389 for six wickets against Hampshire

DARREN LEHMANN paid Hampshire the compliment of giving a weakened attack his full attention on the United Services ground yesterday and was rewarded with a superbly-fashioned 182 as Yorkshire headed for a crushing score in conditions made for batting. It was, by five runs, the highest of the Australian's four hundreds for Yorkshire, all scored away from home.

Lehmann, 27, a stocky left-hander, batted for 30 minutes before hitting his first boundary and took 163 balls to reach 64. At that point, though, he hit five fours off seven balls and, from then on, toyed with the Hampshire bowling. The bulk of his runs came on the leg side, but the feature of the innings was his perfect timing straight and through the covers. He hit 28 fours off 266 balls before being caught at slip off Udal 20 minutes from the close.

With the exception of Lee Savident, 20, who, in addition to becoming the first Guernseyman to play county cricket, dismissed David Byas with his fourth ball, Hampshire had a dreadful day. Since injury deprived them of two experienced bowlers, Cardigan Connor and Kevan James, it defied logic that they took six

wickets in the day, considering that they put four catches on the floor.

There were moments when the Hampshire fielding brought to mind a story told of Jim Smith, a heavily-built Middlesex fast bowler of the 1930s. Positioned, despite protest, at short-leg, the story went that, when the ball was past him, he took so long to turn that the batsmen took one run, pursued it so slowly they took two and threw so wide they took a third.

John Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, was the bowler when much the same thing happened yesterday. Lehmann running three for a deflection past gully that stopped well short of the boundary. Stephenson spread his arms as though to ask what on earth was going on.

Hampshire's most laughable piece of fielding far exceeded that, though. When Parker had scored 11, he mistimed a hook off Savident so badly that it flew high and all but vertically off the edge, within easy reach of the bowler and the wicketkeeper.

With Laney confusing the issue by trying to reach it from mid-wicket, Savident and Aymes held off. Amid cries of disbelief and anguish, and no doubt laughter from the Yorkshire dressing-room, the ball duly dropped unattended on the pitch... at most 15 feet from where Parker hit it.

Fringe performers hold key to title

By SIMON WILDE

HOVE (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 291 for eight wickets against Sussex

IF GLOUCESTERSHIRE become county champions next month — and, with Glamorgan struggling yesterday, they may be top of the table again come Monday — it will be officially for the first time in their history.

They have had great cricketers but no great teams and there is the distinct possibility that an honour that eluded Jessop, Hammond, Graveney and Procter will fall to names such as Windows, Dawson, Church and Davis.

These four had made only championship appearances between them before they took the field at Hove yesterday, but they are the men on whom the destiny of the title may now depend. Young has joined the Australians, Wright and Lynch are out of form. Not that their replacements are flush for runs: many members of this title-chasing team are playing for their contracts.

Yet, once again, Gloucestershire somehow contrived to raise the sort of score that should keep them in the game, if not quite in control of it. At one point, they were 119 for five, but a dogged stand of 120 between Bobby Dawson and Jack Russell, who stayed together for nearly three hours, salvaged the situation.

It was a good day to win the toss and bat and both sides are fielding two spinners to take advantage of a dry, running pitch. Dawson typifies Gloucestershire's problems. Once identified as a burgeoning talent, his career has come

to a standstill and he is now 27. Last year, he averaged 11.75; this year, before this game, 7.25 from three matches — which made his wretched stay of 4½ hours for 98 a terrific effort for self and side. He began brightly, but Russell's eagerness seemed to rub off on him and he punctuated bouts of blocking with thumps to the boundary.

If Gloucestershire have a star at the moment, it is Russell, who sold his wicket as cheaply yesterday. His 34th birthday, as he has for most of his 15 previous seasons. He was eventually leg-before to the persevering Robinson, crouching and offering no stroke, for 48, ten overs before Dawson propped forward and looped a catch to slip of Khan.

Before their sixth-wicket pair joined forces, Gloucestershire were woeful. Windows, Church and Alleyne failed to get a start. Trainor and Hancock did the hard work and then got out. There were some careless dismissals, but some good bowling from the lively Edwards and Khan, for once, turned the ball often.

Sussex, indeed, looked more like pot-hunters than their guests and showed no sign of carrying a hangover from their NatWest Trophy defeat the day before. Many of them are, of course, also playing for their futures, with the committee meeting on August 26 to decide their staff for next year.

Some pressure has been lifted from the batsmen by the decision of Athey to retire forthwith, after Sussex offered him an administrative post as part of its proposed restructuring.

Tour match	
First-class counties XI v Pakistan A	
<p>CHELSEAFO (first day of four; Pakistan A won toss): First-class Counties XI, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 113 runs behind Pakistan A</p> <p>PAKISTAN A: First Innings</p> <p>Mujibul Jamiel c Nixon b Such 16 Salim Elahi c Nixon b Such 27 Muhammad Wasim c Grayson 31 Haseeb Raza c Grayson b Such 47 Farhan Aidi b Welch 17 Ahsan Mahmood b Brown 37 Javed Qadir c Giles b Such 24 Abdul Razvi b Brown 1 Shoaib Malik c Nixon b Such 1 Iftan Fazli c Nixon b Brown 5 Aftab Khan c Nixon b Such 2 Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 8, nb 14) 21 Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 227</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-81, 3-84, 4-131, 5-167, 6-197, 7-197, 8-198, 9-225, 10-225</p> <p>BOWLING: Omond 8-1-34-0; Welch 14-2-38-2; Brown 18-3-65-3; Giles 9-3-19-0; Such 22-6-74-5</p>	
FIRST CLASS COUNTIES XI: First Innings	
<p>J J Lewis b Abbott 4 D L Mackay c Javed b Abdul 17 D L Mackay not out 51 A P Grayson not out 34 Extras (no 8) 8 Total (2 wickets) 114</p> <p>D J Sales, P A Nixon, D R Brown, G Welch, A F Giles, J Omond and P M Such to bat.</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-39</p> <p>BOWLING: Abdul Razvi 8-0-33-2; Iftan Fazli 8-1-18-0; Ahsan Mahmood 11-7-1-2; Shoaib Malik 5-0-0-0; M Jamiel 5-1-24-0</p> <p>Umpires: D R Shepherd and H D Bird.</p>	
Britannic Assurance county championship	
Derbyshire v Lancashire	
<p>DERBYSHIRE (first day of four; Lancashire won toss): Derbyshire have scored 408 for nine wickets against Lancashire</p> <p>DERBYSHIRE: First Innings</p> <p>A S Rolles c Atherton b Martin 0 M R May c Crawley b Martin 23 D G Cook c Hogg b Martin 13 K J Barnett c Hogg b Martin 86 J E Owen b Austin 22 V P Clarke b Austin 15 R M Worrall not out 72 J Blackwell c Crawley b Gallen 42 P A J DeFreitas c Crawley 86 A J Harris not out 12 D E Maitland not out 0 Extras (lb 1, lb 10, nb 18) 27 Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 408</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-25, 3-45, 4-99, 5-123, 6-165, 7-248, 8-372, 9-402</p>	
Derbyshire v Lancashire	
<p>LANCASHIRE: M A Atherton, J E R Gidley, J P Crawley, A Flintoff, G Lloyd, M Worrall, J D Austin, W K Hogg, P J Martin, R J Green, D J Shepherd.</p> <p>Bonus points: Derbyshire 4</p> <p>Umpires: M J Kitchen and J F Steele.</p>	
Hampshire v Yorkshire	
<p>PORTSMOUTH (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 389 for six wickets against Hampshire</p> <p>YORKSHIRE: First Innings</p> <p>M D Watson c Aymes b Renshaw 0 M P Vaughan c Aymes b Savident 74 D Byas c Renshaw b Savident 26 D S Lehmann c Stephenson b Udal 182 G White b Udal 18 B Parker b Stephenson 20 J R Bailey not out 24 A C Morris not out 14 Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 8, nb 14) 24 Total (6 wickets, 104 overs) 389</p> <p>G M Hamilton, P M Hutchinson and R D Stamp to bat.</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-38, 3-156, 4-208, 5-268, 6-379</p> <p>BOWLING: Renshaw 17-3-69-1; Patel 12-2-38-0; Savident 18-5-78-2; Udal 37-10-114-4; Stephenson 19-4-74-1; Hayden 2-0-11-0</p> <p>HAMPSHIRE: J S Leary, M L Hayden, G W White, R A Smith, M Keach, J S Stephenson, J A N Aymes, S D Udal, L Savident, S J Renshaw, C Patel</p> <p>Bonus points: Hampshire 2 Yorkshire 4</p> <p>Umpires: J D Bond and B Dudson</p>	
Middlesex v Surrey	
<p>LORD'S (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 82 runs behind Middlesex</p>	
Dawson: gritty 98 against Sussex	
<p>MIDDLESEX: First Innings</p> <p>J C Rodley c Butcher b C Hollis 10 J C Rodley c Butcher b C Hollis 23 M W Gutteridge c Brown b Amin 54 O A Shah c Amin b C Hollis 44 C J Roper c A J Hollis 4 B Saqlain 8 R K Brown c Backwell b Saqlain 7 W P Dutch c Brown b Saqlain 30 R L Johnson c Amin b Saqlain 40 J P Hewitt c A J Hollis b Saqlain 40 R L Johnson not out 50 P C R Tufnell c Butcher b A J Hollis 7 Extras (b 3, lb 7, w 12) 32 Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 205</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-38, 3-142, 4-122, 5-156, 6-158, 7-162, 8-162, 9-162</p> <p>BOWLING: Backwell 11-2-33-0; Lewis 12-1-44-0; B C Hollis 14-2-23-3; A J Hollis 6-1-24-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 14-2-50-5; Amin 10-4-21-1</p> <p>SURREY: First Innings</p> <p>M A Butcher not out 56 J D Roper c Dutch b Fraser 13 G P Thorpe c Ramprakash b Dutch 32 A J Hollis not out 14 Extras (b 6, w 8, nb 14) 24 Total (2 wickets, 36 overs) 128</p> <p>A D Brown, B C Hollis, C C Lewis, J N Bailey, M P Blackwell, Saqlain Mushtaq and R M Amin to bat.</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-99</p> <p>BOWLING: Fraser 7-2-19-1; Hewitt 7-0-30-0; Kallis 3-0-0-0; Johnson 6-1-17-0; Tufnell 10-0-27-0; Dutch 3-0-15-1</p> <p>Bonus points: Middlesex 1 Surrey 4</p> <p>Umpires: J C Balderson and G Sharp.</p>	
Nottinghamshire v Somerset	
<p>TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 250 for six wickets against Nottinghamshire</p> <p>SOMERSET: First Innings</p> <p>P D Bowler c Aslett b Tolley 8 P C L Holloway c Johnson b Aslett 72 S C Eccleshall c Alzall b Oram 7 M M Lathwell b Oram 34 M E Traaschick c Noon b Oram 5 M Burns c Noon b Oram 72 R J Turner not out 48 Q D Fosse not out 28 Extras (b 2, lb 8, w 2, nb 4) 16 Total (6 wickets, 104 overs) 250</p> <p>K J Shira, Mushtaq Ahmed and A R Cardick to bat.</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-33, 3-98, 4-125, 5-136, 6-228</p> <p>BOWLING: Franks 21-4-61-0; Oram 19-6-53-4; Tolley 21-4-48-1; Evans 21-7-47-0; Aslett 14-2-35-1; Alzall 8-1-36-0</p> <p>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: M P Downman, R T Robinson, A A Metcalfe, N J Aslett, P Johnson, U Alzall, C M Tolley, W M Noon, P J Franks, K P Evans, A R Oram</p> <p>Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 2 Somerset 2</p> <p>Umpires: J H Hampshire and J H Harris.</p>	
Sussex v Gloucestershire	
<p>HOVE (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 291 for eight wickets against Sussex</p> <p>GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings</p> <p>N J Topley c Khan b Khan 30 M G N Windward b Edwards 30 M H C Hancock c Bates b Edwards 36 M J Church c Edwards b Khan 98 R I Dawson c Taylor b Khan 98 M W Alleyne b Robinson 0 R C Russell b Robinson 48 M C J Ball b Robinson 29 R P Davis not out 1 A M Smith not out 0 Extras (b 5, w 4, nb 22) 31 Total (8 wickets, 104 overs) 291</p> <p>J Lewis to bat.</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-56, 3-78, 4-114, 5-119, 6-239, 7-282, 8-289</p> <p>BOWLING: Jarvis 23-4-84-0; Edwards 17-2-48-2; Robinson 25-9-48-3; Khan 17-6-53-3; Bates 12-3-29-0; K Newell 8-3-11-0; Raso 1-0-7-0</p> <p>SUSSEX: M T E Pearce, R K Rao, N R Taylor, M Newell, K Newell, TP Morris, P W Jarvis, A A Khan, J J Bates, A D Edwards, M A Robinson</p> <p>Bonus points: Sussex 3 Gloucestershire 2</p> <p>Umpires: B Loadwater and K E Palmer.</p>	
Worcestershire v Glamorgan	
<p>WORCESTER (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 342 for four wickets against Glamorgan</p> <p>WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings</p> <p>T S Curtis b Croft 160 W P C Weston b Butcher 17 G A Hick c Maynard b Croft 65 G H Haynes c Shaw b Wagar 45 T M Moody not out 30 A Shearer not out 2 Extras (b 5, lb 6, w 2, nb 10) 23 Total (4 wickets, 104 overs) 342</p> <p>D A Leatherdale, V S Solanki, T S Rhodes, S R Lampitt and M M Mize to bat.</p> <p>FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-212, 3-285, 4-327</p> <p>BOWLING: Wagar 18-4-73-1; Wadlan 22-4-58-0; Butcher 12-2-52-1; Thomas 14-0-69-0; Croft 30-10-49-2; Dale 8-1-30-0</p> <p>GLAMORGAN: M H Morris, S P James, A Cole, M P Maynard, M J Powell, R D B Croft, G P Butcher, M D Shaw, S D Thomas, Wagar Youngs, S L Walker</p> <p>Bonus points: Worcestershire 3 Glamorgan 1</p> <p>Umpires: D J Constant and R A White</p>	
NAYC ONE-DAY CUP: Semi-finals	
<p>Wellingborough College (Northamptonshire) 141-3; Kent 114; Northamptonshire with 27 runs; Chesham CC; Dorset 224-7; Surrey 228-3; C Hodgson 123 not out, M Canterbury 55; Surrey won by seven wickets</p>	

Derbyshire surprise themselves after a shaky start

By JACK BAILEY

DERBY (first day of four; Lancashire won toss): Derbyshire have scored 408 for nine wickets against Lancashire

FOR a team languishing at the foot of the county championship table, Derbyshire had an indecently good day. It did not always look that way and a shaky start could have led to disaster, but Kim Barnett, with a typically forthright innings of 86, kept them steady.

Then notable contributions from Ian Blackwell, 19, and the considerably more mature Philip DeFreitas and Karl Krikken took them way beyond reasonable expectations after Barnett had left with the score on 189 for six.

Against a tired-looking attack, Blackwell hit 42 from 62 balls, with a six and six fours, and DeFreitas bludgeoned his way to 96 from only 80 balls. Krikken, that awkward-looking but determined and wholehearted cricketer, simply stayed around. He was dropped on 14 off the luckless Green, but ran past his half-century after 34 hours, seeing Derbyshire to a decent score.

The return to championship cricket of Dominic Cork for the first time since Derbyshire's first match of the season against Kent, saw him make a somewhat surprising appearance at the fall of the first wicket. His innings was sketchy, his demeanour lacking the bombast of his more recent glory days.

When he was out, caught behind off the bustling Green, he did not wait for the umpire's verdict. Those of us who were here, six years ago almost to the day, when he took eight for 53 on his twentieth birthday and announced himself to the world, will wish him well in his climb from the slough of despond in which he finds himself.

Meanwhile, though, his latest dismissal meant that Derbyshire, on 48 for three, were in a spot of bother. Not too serious, you understand, for Barnett was finding his feet. Lancashire's expectations were still high, but the pitch, though offering Martin and company some assistance, lacked real zip, even early on.

Martin did cause early tremors. Rollins was comfortably taken at third slip and then May, having scored 23, became his second victim. Although Cork and Owen also fell before lunch and Clarke, like Owen, chopped the ball on when facing the persevering Austin, Barnett was by now fully into his stride and past 2,000 championship runs against the northern county.

Somerset batsmen forced to proceed with care

By IVO TENNANT

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 290 for six wickets against Nottinghamshire

ON A pitch with considerably more grass on it than was the case for the fifth Test match here last week, Somerset had quite a struggle to impose themselves against some accurate seam bowling yesterday. Piran Holloway and Michael Burns both made scores of 72 and Andy Oram finished with four wickets for the second time in his brief career. It was a day for the quintessential English professional.

Oram has made quite an impression in this, his first season with Nottinghamshire. His request for a trial with them came as a result of frustration that he was not achieving anything with Northamptonshire. He took himself off to Australia last winter to prove to himself that he had a future in the game, as indeed he has. If he can add another yard of pace, he should be quite a proposition.

This was not quite the kind of green pitch that Nottinghamshire were coming up with when they last won the championship a decade ago, but there was more grass left on than would normally be expected at this time of year. Oram, Franks and Tolley moved the ball around sufficiently for every batsman to remain circumspect.

The balls that accounted for Bowler, caught at second slip without moving his feet, Lathwell, leg-before, and Trescott, taken at the wicket, all deviated just enough to beat some indeterminate shots. Eccleshall went to a sharp catch at gully by Afzall. This is a strangely ill-balanced Somerset side in that they are playing four bowlers. Burns for his batting as opposed to his wicketkeeping and have Lathwell continuing to labour in the middle order.

Holloway is a worthy cricketer. He looks to smell the ball, accumulating all the while. There were six fours in his half-century and his dismissal, through a catch at square leg from an attempted pull off Aslett, was something of a surprise. Burns, who was the more aggressive of the two, struck 11 fours and a six in all before Oram had him caught at the wicket.

There was a characteristically useful contribution late in the day from Turner, who continues to hold his place as the first-choice wicketkeeper despite some considerable competition. It was not an exceptional day's cricket, but one with which Somerset would ultimately have been quite pleased.

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

Books. Guides. Dictionaries for all Crossword buffs.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE FOR UK ONLY

Rest of the World (including other EU countries) add £1.50 per item. Sterling Or US\$ only. £1 - US\$1.65

The Times Crosswords - Books 10,11,12,13

£4.50 each

The Times Concise Crosswords Book 2

(240 puzzles) £5.99

The Times Two Crosswords

Book 6 £3.50

Crossword Manual by Don Manley £10.99

Robert's Thesaurus £14.99 (Hb) or 6.99 (Pb)

Crossword Solver's Dictionary £11.95 (UK only)

Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms £7.99

Guide to (English) Grammar and Usage £13.99

Dictionary of English Idioms £6.99

Dictionary of Literary Terms £12

Words which appear in The Times Crosswords are found

usually in at least two of the undermentioned dictionaries

Collins English Dictionary £25 (UK only)

also available on IBM CD-ROM £29.99

The Chambers Dictionary £25 (UK only)

also available on IBM CD-ROM £29.99

The Concise Oxford Dictionary - available

from good bookshops

Send SAE for details, prices of The Times atlases and other

publications

PLUS QUALITY COMPUTER SOFTWARE

The Times Computer Crosswords

by David Akenhead

FOOTBALL SATURDAY



Hateley, who has played on some of the greatest stages in the game, is now at home in the rather more humble surroundings of Boothferry Park, the home of Hull City

Hateley sets new agenda

Mark Hateley is talking about aggression when the phone starts to ring in his small, rectangular office at Boothferry Park. A pass can be aggressive. The phone keeps ringing, shrill and insistent, and he breaks off from his strictures to stare at it as if it were perpetrating an imperiousness. He reaches over, lifts the receiver from the handset and puts it straight back down.

It is more important to him than ever now, this aggression that has been his watchword for so long. It was the quality that defined his career, the thing that made him outjump his marker in the Maracanã Stadium all those years ago to head his famous goal against Brazil, the attitude that drove him to the challenge of playing for AC Milan at the age of 21 and took him to a succession of leading clubs across Europe.

In his new world, it is one of the only constants that he has to cling to. There is still a diamond stud embedded in his left ear and his tall, lean frame is still draped in a succession of sharp suits, but they will not help him in the dark places he is about to explore at the wrong end of the Nationwide League.

Six weeks ago, Hateley accepted the position of player-manager of Hull City, one that a national newspaper described as "the job from hell" last season after the previous incumbent, Terry Dolan, was subjected to a supporters' hate campaign. So far, his new charges have managed a 2-0 defeat to Mansfield Town and a goalless draw with Macclesfield Town. This afternoon,

they will try to give Hateley his first victory as player-manager when they take on Notts County.

Not for Hateley the leap from a high-profile playing career to one of the plum managerial posts, the route of a Bryan Robson, a Ray Wilkins or a Gordon Strachan. Hateley is in the basement of football, surrounded by the trappings of mediocrity at a club where a 10in model of a windscreens sits in the reception area, a commemorative of the launch of the Auto Windscreens Shield in 1994 and the closest the club have got to silverware for some time.

The irony, which may not be lost on Hateley, is that he seems eminently better equipped than any of the above mentioned former internationals to be a success as a coach. It is not so much his playing credentials that are so impressive — though they stand up beside those of the rest — but the fact that after barely a month in the job, he has developed a Gordon Gecko-meets-Terry Buncher style that marks him out as a prototype of a managerial hard man for the new millennium.

Above all, he is a consummate professional, hard-working, well-presented, polite in a brusque, matter-of-fact sort of way and honest in a manner that could become brutal. He may be one of those rare men made for management, someone who genuinely does not care if he is liked as long as he is respected, someone whose career could scale greater heights in a position of authority than it did as a player.

"I will be a hard man to play under," Hateley says. "I will be a taskmaster. I like standards, you see. I have always

OLIVER HOLT



The players of Hull City have found that their manager is a tough taskmaster

driven myself to those standards and beyond. I have said to the players that anything less than that and they will be out. But you should not have to discipline players. If they go by the rules and give me what I want, then there won't be a problem.

"I am a like-to-take-charge sort of person and one thing I have done already is that if any of the players come up here to the ground for anything, it has got to be a suit and tie. A jacket, a shirt and tie. I am a great believer in



Hateley in his striking heyday with AC Milan

setting good standards from day one. If you dress smart, you'll play smart. It's easy to get out of bed in the morning and throw a tracksuit on, but if you take your time when you get dressed in the morning, you wake yourself up and you're switched on. It's an attitude of mind.

"I had a lot of offers in the summer, playing offers from America and Europe, better financial offers than I had here, but as soon as I spoke to Tim Wilby, the new chairman here, it felt right. He was a very positive, very aggressive sort of guy, very similar to me, wanted what I wanted out of life.

same ambitions. The club has got a new regime now. It is very ambitious and I think it is a great opportunity for me. This is the level I wanted to come in at. I have always had great ambitions and I would love to be managing in the Premiership in four years' time. I know it is not going to be easy, but if I apply myself as I have done throughout my playing career, it should be easier. I am always moving my targets. I go to the targets and then I set new ones and that is what I will do here."

Hateley has been around football since his childhood. The son of Tony Hateley, the former Chelsea and Coventry City striker, he was born in Liverpool 35 years ago and began his career with Coventry. He moved down a division to Portsmouth, but Bobby Robson took him on the England tour of South America in 1984 and the goal against Brazil — after an even more memorable one from John Barnes — cemented his reputation.

That prompted AC Milan to sign him and he had two successful seasons there before Silvio Berlusconi took over at the club and instigated the signings of Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten. He moved on to AS Monaco under the tutelage of Arsène Wenger and then came back to Britain to play for Rangers, where he finished his career at the highest level last season after brief interludes with Queens Park Rangers and Leeds United.

Now, he has moved to a club that gradually plumbed the depths under the guidance of Dolan and finished seventh in the third division last season, just ten points clear of falling into the Vauxhall Con-

ference. Hull has been bought by David Lloyd, the former tennis player, present British Davis Cup captain and leisure centre multi-millionaire, and a more expansive approach, including a move to a different stadium, has been promised. However, it will still be a huge task to drag Hull from the mire.

"It was more the majority rather than the minority who were giving the previous manager stick," Hateley said. "They were very disappointed at what he was doing and quite rightly so. I have got the same players that he had and basically, they can all play. If you take a club as far down as he did, you are going to get trouble, but before this season even started, we got 16,000 people for three games in a week and it took them four months last year to get that number through the door. I have got no idea what my resources are going to be yet and I don't know what the budget is going to be. I do know that we have got 40-odd players on the books here, which is far too many and that is going to have to get trimmed down. That is the first bit of the management pressure, telling people they are not going to be wanted, but it has to be dealt with and then we will move on."

"They like to see good football here and we will play football. I have told the players that we will pass the ball all day and that if you stop passing the ball, I will have you off. It is straightforward. We have a couple of formations, a pattern of play and, basically, they do the job I ask them to do."

One suspects that there will not be too many dissenters.

United need Beckham from start

The FA Carling Premiership is now two games old — or young — but already there seems to be a startling imbalance between the product and the propaganda. Millions have been spent on transfers, millions will go into players' pockets and fans must pay higher and higher prices — there appears to be the law of diminishing returns.

I have seen, so far, five matches and eight different teams. Six and nine if you count the FA Charity Shield. Even making allowance for the recent intense hot weather, quality is at a premium.

If the European Cup is the ultimate criteria, it surely finds our contestants wanting. Only an appalling decision by the referee, ignoring Asprilla's foul on the Croatia Zagreb goalkeeper, allowed Newcastle United, admittedly short of Shearer, their meagre 2-1 win in the first leg of a preliminary round tie on Wednesday.

Watching Manchester United prevail at Tottenham Hotspur in the league tie, previous weekend, it was significant that, for all their second-half superiority, United won through a couple of comic goals. The first came after confusion in the Tottenham defence, a fortuitous deflection and a moment's amnesia, whereby Carr put United inside. The second was a own goal. United's lack of thrust up front was palpable.

Sheringham, for all his wiles, is slow, Jordi Cruyff, praised by Alex Ferguson for his talent, looks lightweight. Cole, absent with an abscess, has never seemed the answer. Ole Gunnar Solskjær, when he returns, will carry an enormous burden. Then there is the question of David Beckham — or rather of Ferguson's almost perverse treatment of him.

With some justice, Ferguson was never enamoured of Le Tournoi de France, while Beckham's romantic life — surely his own and nobody else's business — had been splashed across the front pages. So Ferguson seems to have quite arbitrarily decided that Beckham must be fired, using him merely, and wastefully as substitute in the Charity Shield and in United's opening league games. In each of them, Beckham came on to galvanise a side that had stuttered without him.

Liverpool, who appeared to have bought wonderfully well — Ince, Leonhardsen, Danny Murphy — when they might have picked up a goalkeeper, got two points in their first two games, losing at home to Leicester City. So far the parts are manifestly greater than the whole. The Barcelona Steve McManaman saga is a strange one. However high the price, whatever the implications of the Bosman ruling, could Liverpool afford to lose him? Not least when he has grown up at Anfield, committed to the colours. True, there is

no sentiment in business, but even at £12 million, would this have been good business? Who, and for how much, might they have bought in his place?

Arsenal, tipped by their former manager, George Graham, seriously or otherwise, for the title, have a superb spearhead in Ian Wright and Dennis Bergkamp, are entitled to hope for great things from Marc Overmars, but are surprisingly short of cover in defence, lack invention in midfield, need more than Ray Parlour gives them on the right and have yet to tighten up their discipline.

As for Chelsea, ignominiously beaten by a Coventry City team that looked impotent at Highbury, their transfer policy is bewildering. Endowed with two excellent young backs, Granville and Babayaro, though the Nigerian is injured,

BRIAN GLANVILLE



they splash out £5 million for Le Seax, whom they had sold to Black Rovers (a team to watch) for £690,000.

Awash with goalkeepers, even though Kharine is not yet quite fit, they spent £2.5 million on the Dutch giant, De Goeij, who finds it hard to get a cross. The final inconsistency that has been theirs over the decades seems to be their silly good bias in the cup, capable of beating anybody on their day — or of losing to anybody else.

West Ham United look promising. Eyal Berkovic, the misbegotten little Israeli, gives new flair and snap to the midfield, though we shall see whether he can keep up his form throughout the winter. The precocious poise, elegance and skill of Rio Ferdinand should make him a full international before long, perhaps alongside the dominating presence of Tottenham's commanding Sol Campbell, a player who has amply proved his international class. We must hope his knee injury proves only transient. So, indeed, must the beleaguered Spurs.

But Leicester, Wimbledon and Barnsley reassure us that money is not everything and a league that throws up such resilient young talents as Emile Heskey, Michael Owen and Rio Ferdinand cannot be all bad.

Continuing his series, Mark Hodgkinson finds Barnsley adjusting to a new profile

Falling victim to first-day nerves

Television regularly serves up dramas on the theme of apocalypse. The bomb is about to drop, heads fall into hands, misanthropists prowling the streets: the whole world has gone Roswell. Barnsley town centre had this sense of eeriness last Saturday afternoon. At Oakwell, home of Barnsley FC, just a mile away, there was colour and life, but the centre could have been brushed by tumbleweed.

Marks & Spencer was deathly quiet, like a Sunday staff training day. The only customers were a handful of old ladies cruising the aisles in search of corn plaster and tins of butter beans; nothing, not even a measly Armageddon, deters these ladies.

Peter Gibbons, the manager of Boots, confirmed that trade had been affected by Barnsley's debut in the FA Carling Premiership. He had no complaints though, three of the Barnsley players had recently popped in for a pedicure. "They carried themselves off well," he said, almost with a hint of surprise, as if he believed that every footballer had learnt etiquette from Carlton Palmer.

The only signs of life were young men outside pubs, glasses of beer in hand, high on anticipation. Many were wearing their replica Barnsley shirts, but others had taken them off to reveal chicken soup skin, going tomato in the sun.

It was not so long ago when a match at Oakwell would go on almost unnoticed by residents living in the red-brick houses around the ground. On Saturday, they waved from deckchairs as the crowd filtered through.

BBC trucks had commandeered part of the car park and cameras roamed in search of a tike with a quote. The queues for

match programmes stretched into the side streets and new businesses had appeared overnight — badge selling, burger selling, Barnsley selling.

The pre-match entertainment was a tad choreographed, but, on such a momentous day, nothing was left to chance. The crowd sang — rather unoriginally — "You'll never walk alone" and hundreds of balloons were released from beneath a giant canopy. It appeared as if every

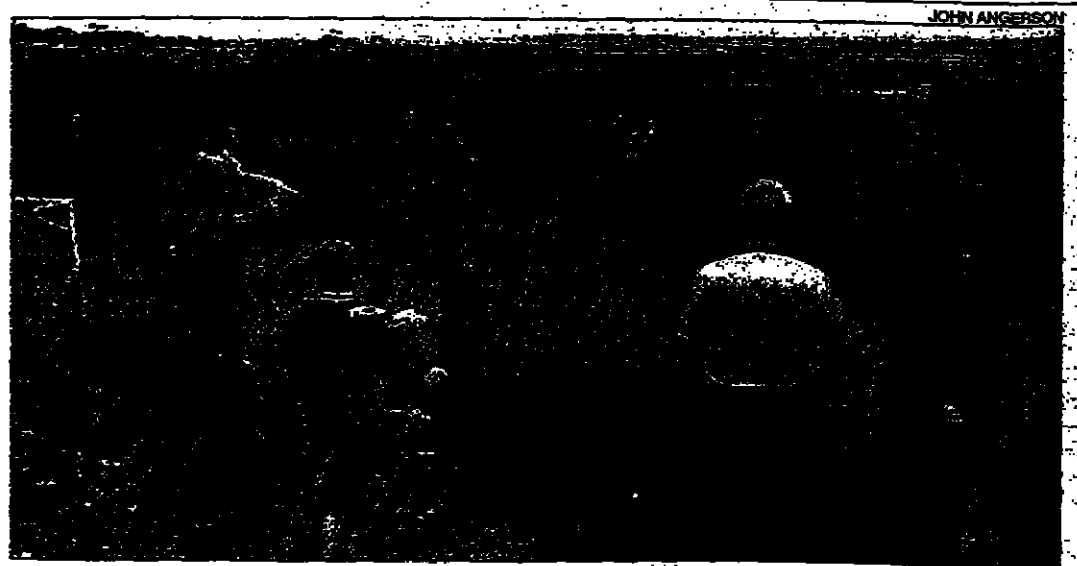
Barnsley supporter was wearing a team shirt and, clearly inspired, the team were beating West Ham United 1-0 after just nine minutes. The visitors went on to win 2-1, but on Tuesday, Barnsley picked up their first Premiership points

with a victory at Crystal Palace. The win has lifted the pallor of anticlimax that settled over the town on Saturday evening. Back in 1898, when Barnsley were elected to the Football League, one committee member muttered his concern that the team "might not uphold the dignity of the club in such surroundings".

On Tuesday evening, in South London, Barnsley damned any brooding home-grown, own-goal logic by upholding their dignity and raising themselves to ninth in the table.

Barnsley is a club waking up to its new status. It aspires to the hospitality age, but there remains an anachronistic, home-spun charm. A phone call to the ground, for example, is answered by a real person, rather than the spurious politeness of an automated switchboard.

The toilets at the rear of the West Stand are open to the elements and visiting supporters are housed in a stand without a roof. Meanwhile, the other two stands are magnifi-



A Barnsley training session attracts a crowd of schoolchildren, whiling away the summer holidays

cent and the entrance to the ground features a vertical curved window set in brick, giving it a distinctly ecclesiastical touch. It is this nearly-there, half-finished quality that makes Oakwell unique in the top division.

At the end of last season, a handful of reporters were housed among the fans, but the press box has been expanded this term to deal with the deluge. There are

plenty of seats, although the aisles between them suggest that measurements were taken using Dennis Wise as the average. When Kevin Pressman might have been more appropriate.

The programme is a colourful and detailed affair, but here Barnsley again reveals its mixture of pragmatism and ambition. There are assiduously researched articles running alongside "Tommy Tyke

See". Tommy wears a cloth cap, scarf and bemused expression and talks to the world in a treacle-thick South Yorkshire accent. He has a special message to the cynics: "We're goin' ter surprise a few fowls; an slap egg all over 'ficers' scouffers."

A club big enough to laugh at itself might well be big enough to survive in the FA Carling Premiership.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Time to tell real story behind collapse of move that never was

The time has come to put the record straight. I went to Barcelona because Liverpool Football Club agreed a fee with them. No player can speak to another club without being given permission by his own club.

That may seem an obvious statement, but after the week I have endured, it is necessary to spell it out. The one fact that I would like to stress above all others is that I had never even crossed my mind that I would leave Liverpool until they told me about their deal with Barcelona.

I am amazed, and quite appalled, by some of the reaction to my visit to the Spanish city. Apparently, Barcelona have suggested that they did not sign me because I asked for too much money. I did not even meet anyone from Barcelona. I knew 15 minutes before the flight from England that

there was a less than five per cent chance of the deal being done.

From the moment I arrived at the airport in the city to the moment I flew out on Friday morning, I did not speak to one representative from the club. I went to the hotel, I went for a meal and then travelled on to Majorca, with friends.

Before we left the airport in England, my advisor spoke to Joan Gaspart, a vice-president of the club, on a mobile telephone and that was only a brief conversation attempting to set out what we might talk about. Gaspart was not even in Barcelona when we arrived; he seemed to be elsewhere negotiating with another player.

As he is the man charged with negotiating transfers, I think it is ridiculous — and actionable — to suggest that the deal fell through because I am greedy. There was no

deal and I think even the most naive of people can appreciate that Barcelona were actually negotiating with another player because they eventually signed him.

Why they asked me to go over there and then did not even bother to meet me or open serious negotiations, I have no idea, but I think it is clear that they were attempting to persuade another player to join them.

Obviously, they concluded a deal with the Brazilian (Rivaldo, from Deportivo La Coruña) and therefore did not feel it necessary to talk to me. They did feel the need to explain to their fans why the deal fell through and they did this by calling me greedy. It was convenient for them.

I am not bitter, not angry, not devastated, because I only went to Barcelona out of respect for my club to hear what they had to say. I



have said all along that I would only ever leave Liverpool if they no longer wanted me and I stand by that now.

I did not want to join Barcelona. I want to play for Liverpool. I am born and bred in the area and my family all live there. It is the place I want to be and I am happy there, so the fact that they have not sold me to Barcelona can hardly make me angry.

What has surprised me is the way that the situation developed. I was surprised when Liverpool said they had agreed a fee for me and they would allow me to talk to the

Spaniards because, as I am under contract, they could simply have said "no way".

I am even more surprised that a fee was agreed for me when it became increasingly obvious that Barcelona did not, in fact, want to sign me. I am also slightly puzzled that Liverpool then issued a statement suggesting that they have tried and failed to negotiate with me for months.

At the top of the column, I said I want to put the record straight and the truth is that before the Barcelona interest, Liverpool had made only one offer, many months ago,

when they talked about the prospect of a new deal. I was called into the manager's office and, after we talked, they wrote some figures on the top of a scrap of paper and handed it to me. My reply was that I was happy with the offer in principle, without committing myself.

They told me they wanted to talk to my adviser, but there was no further contact with him or with my lawyer. I was happy to leave it because I still had more than two years left on my contract. I wanted to concentrate on the run-in to the end of the season when we were chasing the FA Carling Premiership title and the Cup Winners' Cup.

I have two years left on my contract and I have no reason to do a new deal now. I am more than happy to stay at Liverpool and it seems a natural way to approach discussions with a player who still has two years left on his contract.

What upsets me more than anything else is that the supporters of Liverpool may have been given the impression that I want to leave the club. I hope that every single supporter at Anfield reads this column and understands that I did not want to leave. The fact that Liverpool had talks with Barcelona, without my knowledge, has nothing to do with me. I am just pleased that I am back at Liverpool. I think the supporters would

have been unhappy if I had left and that is an important consideration to me.

Already, I have had lots of contact from the supporters and they are concerned about the situation. I understand how they feel and I must stress again that I am pleased to be back. Under circumstances such as these, there are a lot of half-truths, a lot of misrepresentations and the supporters can get the wrong picture. That is why I have attempted to put the record straight.

Certain papers have accused me of all sorts of things, when they clearly have no idea what happened. That is irresponsible and it is the supporters and myself who suffer.

I will be back in training on Monday and, as far as I am concerned, I am as committed to Liverpool Football Club as I have always been. I am proud to play for Liverpool.

As I have stressed, I am not angry at the events of this week, just a little surprised and puzzled, particularly at the behaviour of Barcelona, but it pays to be philosophical about such things in football and I can offer a guarantee to our supporters that I will not let it affect the way I play for the club.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	PLAYED	POINTS	GOALS	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STANDING
1. BLACKBURN ROVERS	2	6	+5	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	2-0-0	W2
2. MANCHESTER UTD	2	6	+3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2-0-0	W2
3. WEST HAM UTD	2	6	+2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	2-0-0	W2
4. LEICESTER CITY	2	6	+2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	2-0-0	W2
5. LEEDS UTD	2	4	+2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	1-1-0	W1
6. ARSENAL	2	4	+2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	1-1-0	W1
7. NEWCASTLE UTD	1	3	+1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-0	W1
8. BOLTON WANDERERS	1	3	+1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1-0-0	W1
9. BARNLEY	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1-0-1	W1
10. CRYSTAL PALACE	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1-0-1	L1
11. COVENTRY CITY	2	3	-1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	2	1-0-1	L1
12. WIMBLEDON	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0-1-0	D1
13. LIVERPOOL	2	1	-1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0-1-1	L1
13. CHELSEA	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0-0-1	L1
15. EVERTON	1	0	-1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-1	L1
16. DERBY COUNTY	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0-0-1	L1
17. SOUTHAMPTON	2	0	-2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0-0-2	L2
18. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	2	0	-3	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	2	0-0-2	L2
19. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	2	0	-3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	0-0-2	L2
20. ASTON VILLA	2	0	-5	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0-0-2	L2

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
(1) Charlton v Oxford Utd (2) * Crewe v West Bromwich (3) Portsmouth v Port Vale (4) * Reading v Swindon (5) Stockport v Bury (6) Wolverhampton v Sheffield Utd (7) * Walsall v Luton (8) * Walsall v Luton (9) * Walsall v Luton (10) * Walsall v Luton (11) * Walsall v Luton (12) * Walsall v Luton (13) * Walsall v Luton (14) * Walsall v Luton (15) * Walsall v Luton (16) * Walsall v Luton (17) * Walsall v Luton (18) * Walsall v Luton (19) * Walsall v Luton (20) * Walsall v Luton (21) * Walsall v Luton (22) * Walsall v Luton (23) * Walsall v Luton (24) * Walsall v Luton (25) * Walsall v Luton (26) * Walsall v Luton (27) * Walsall v Luton (28) * Walsall v Luton (29) * Walsall v Luton (30) * Walsall v Luton (31) * Walsall v Luton (32) * Walsall v Luton (33) * Walsall v Luton (34) * Walsall v Luton (35) * Walsall v Luton (36) * Walsall v Luton (37) * Walsall v Luton (38) * Walsall v Luton (39) * Walsall v Luton (40) * Walsall v Luton (41) * Walsall v Luton (42) * Walsall v Luton (43) * Walsall v Luton (44) * Walsall v Luton (45) * Walsall v Luton (46) * Walsall v Luton (47) * Walsall v Luton (48) * Walsall v Luton (49) * Walsall v Luton (50) * Walsall v Luton (51) * Walsall v Luton (52) * Walsall v Luton (53) * Walsall v Luton (54) * Walsall v Luton (55) * Walsall v Luton (56) * Walsall v Luton (57) * Walsall v Luton (58) * Walsall v Luton (59) * Walsall v Luton (60) * Walsall v Luton (61) * Walsall v Luton (62) * Walsall v Luton (63) * Walsall v Luton (64) * Walsall v Luton (65) * Walsall v Luton (66) * Walsall v Luton (67) * Walsall v Luton (68) * Walsall v Luton (69) * Walsall v Luton (70) * Walsall v Luton (71) * Walsall v Luton (72) * Walsall v Luton (73) * Walsall v Luton (74) * Walsall v Luton (75) * Walsall v Luton (76) * Walsall v Luton (77) * Walsall v Luton (78) * Walsall v Luton (79) * Walsall v Luton (80) * Walsall v Luton (81) * Walsall v Luton (82) * Walsall v Luton (83) * Walsall v Luton (84) * Walsall v Luton (85) * Walsall v Luton (86) * Walsall v Luton (87) * Walsall v Luton (88) * Walsall v Luton (89) * Walsall v Luton (90) * Walsall v Luton (91) * Walsall v Luton (92) * Walsall v Luton (93) * Walsall v Luton (94) * Walsall v Luton (95) * Walsall v Luton (96) * Walsall v Luton (97) * Walsall v Luton (98) * Walsall v Luton (99) * Walsall v Luton (100) * Walsall v Luton				

ATTACK	GOALS SCORED	AVERAGE
1. Blackburn	5	2.50
2. Leeds Utd	4	2.00
3. West Ham	2	2.00
4. Chelsea	2	2.00
5. Newcastle	2	2.00
6. Arsenal	3	1.50
7. Coventry	3	1.50
8. Leicester	3	1.50
9. Manchester Utd	3	1.50
10. Barnsley	2	1.00
11. Crystal Palace	2	1.00
12. Liverpool	2	1.00
13. Sheffield Wed	1	1.00
14. Bolton	1	1.00
15. Everton	1	1.00
16. Wimbledon	1	1.00
17. Tottenham	0	0.00
18. Aston Villa	0	0.00
19. Derby	0	0.00
20. Southampton	0	0.00

SCORING TRENDS	GOALS PER HALF	1st	2nd
1. Arsenal	2	1	0
2. Aston Villa	0	0	0
3. Barnsley	1	1	0
4. Bolton	4	1	0
5. Chelsea	1	0	0
6. Newcastle	1	1	0
7. Coventry	1	2	0
8. Leicester	1	1	0
9. Manchester Utd	3	1	0
10. Barnsley	2	1	0
11. Crystal Palace	3	1	0
12. Liverpool	3	1	0
13. Sheffield Wed	2	1	0
14. Bolton	1	1	0
15. Everton	1	1	0
16. Wimbledon	1	1	0
17. Tottenham	0	1	0
18. Aston Villa	1	3	0
19. Derby	0	0	1
20. Southampton	0	0	1

TOP TRANSFERS	BIGGEST DEAL	PREMIERSHIP — INCOMING	PREMIERSHIP — OUTGOING
1. Arsenal	£12m	Juninho (Atletico Madrid)	£24.5m
2. Chelsea	£7m	M. Overmars (Arsenal)	£24.5m
3. Liverpool	£7m	S. Collymore (Aston Villa)	£24.5m
4. Manchester Utd	£6m	L. Ferdinand (Tottenham)	£24.5m
5. Tottenham	£5m	G. Leaux (Chelsea)	£24.5m
6. Arsenal	£5m	H. Berg (Man Utd)	£24.5m
7. Coventry	£4.5m	P. Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	£24.5m
8. Crystal Palace	£4.5m	A. Pistone (Newcastle)	£24.5m
9. Derby	£4.5m	P. Ince (Liverpool)	£24.5m
10. Everton	£4.5m	E. Pett (Arsenal)	£24.5m
11. Sheffield Wed	£4.5m	O. Leanderson (Liverpool)	£24.5m
12. Bolton	£4.5m	E. Sheringham (Man Utd)	£24.5m
13. Liverpool	£4.5m	D. Hopkins (Leeds)	£24.5m
14. Leicester	£4.5m	S. Henchoz (Blackburn)	£24.5m
15. Manchester Utd	£4.5m	D. Ginola (Tottenham)	£24.5m
16. Newcastle	£4.5m	M. Dahlin (Blackburn)	£24.5m
17. Sheffield Wed	£4.5m	J. D. Tomlinson (Newcastle)	£24.5m
18. Southampton	£4.5m	C. Babayaro (Chelsea)	£24.5m
19. Tottenham	£4.5m	E. de Gooij (Chelsea)	£24.5m
20. West Ham	£4.5m	R. Elliott (Bolton)	£24.5m
21. Wimbledon	£4.5m	J.F. Hasselbaink (Leeds)	£24.5m
22. Bolton	£4.5m	A. Haaaland (Leeds)	£24.5m
23. Liverpool	£4.5m	K. Riedle (Liverpool)	£24.5m
24. Sheffield Wed	£4.5m	P. Blundell (Sheffield Wed)	£24.5m
25. West Ham	£4.5m	E. Berkovic (West Ham)	£24.5m
26. Arsenal	£4.5m	L. Boa Morte (Arsenal)	£24.5m
27. Crystal Palace	£4.5m	A. Lombardo (Crystal Palace)	£24.5m
28. Tottenham	£4.5m	J. Dominguez (Tottenham)	£24.5m
29. Bolton	£4.5m	N. Cox (Bolton)	£24.5m
30. Everton	£4.5m	J. Ooster (Everton)	£24.5m
31. Newcastle	£4.5m	E. Nevill (Man Utd)	£24.5m
32. Liverpool	£4.5m	D. Murphy (Liverpool)	£24.5m
33. Manchester Utd	£4.5m	K. Miller (Crystal Palace)	£24.5m
34. Wimbledon	£4.5m	B. Lambourde (Chelsea)	£24.5m
35. Bolton	£4.5m	G. Grimandi (Arsenal)	£24.5m
36. Blackburn	£4.5m	G. Hristov (Barnsley)	£24.5m
37. Coventry	£4.5m	S. Given (Newcastle)	£24.5m
38. Leicester	£4.5m	P. Marson (Arsenal)	£24.5m
39. Tottenham	£4.5m	C. Burley (Chelsea)	£24.5m
40. Chelsea	£4.5m	L. Clark (Newcastle)	£24.5m
41. West Ham	£4.5m	P. Ndlovu (Coventry)	£24.5m
42. Bolton	£4.5m	B. Deane (Leeds)	£24.5m
43. Everton	£4.5m	R. Binkley (Sheffield Wed)	£24.5m
44. Liverpool	£4.5m	C. Wreh (Arsenal)	£24.5m
45. Southampton	£4.5m	G. Poyet (Chelsea)	£24.5m
46. Aston Villa	£4.5m	S. Eranio (Derby)	£24.5m
47. Barnsley	£4.5m	P. Kelly, T. Katsalis, S. Pearce	£24.5m
48. Blackburn	£4.5m	Barnes, P. Kelly, T. Katsalis, S. Pearce	£24.5m
49. Bolton	£4.5m	Barnes, P. Kelly, T. Katsalis, S. Pearce	£24.5m
50. Manchester Utd	£4.5m	Barnes, P. Kelly, T. Katsalis, S. Pearce	£24.5m

PLAYERS IN	UK	Other
1. Arsenal	2	0
2. Aston Villa	2	0
3. Barnsley	1	4
4. Blackburn	0	5
5. Bolton	2	1
6. Chelsea	1	5
7. Coventry	2	4
8. Crystal Palace	4	2
9. Derby	2	2
10. Everton	3	1
11. Leeds Utd	3	3
12. Leicester	3	0
13. Liverpool	2	2
14. Manchester Utd	1	2
15. Newcastle	4	4
16. Sheffield Wednesday	0	2
17. Southampton	3	1
18. Tottenham	1	2
19. West Ham	2	0
20. Wimbledon	1	2

SPENDING	Cost £
1. Arsenal	16,250,000+
2. Chelsea	11,300,000
3. Liverpool	11,000,000
4. Manchester Utd	10,000,000
5. Tottenham	9,600,000
6. Arsenal	8,350,000
7. Leeds Utd	8,250,000
8. Newcastle	7,300,000
9. Everton	7,100,000
10. Sheffield Wed	6,200,000
11. Blackburn	6,200,000
12. Crystal Palace	4,350,000+
13. Bolton	3,800,000
14. Barnsley	3,650,000
15. West Ham	3,450,000
16. Southampton	2,800,000
17. Coventry	2,300,000
18. Leicester	2,100,000
19. Derby	2,050,000
20. Wimbledon	400,000

TELEVISION DETAILS
BBC1: Today: Football Focus in Grandstand, 12.20pm.
Sky Sports 1: Today: Sports Saturday Results Service, from 3.30pm. Tomorrow: Dundee United v Hibernian (live), from 3.30pm.

THE FAR CORNER: THE INTERNATIONAL REBOUND			
TURKEY v WALES	IRELAND v LITHUANIA	N IRELAND v GERMANY	
Premiership: none scheduled (one week after season started)	First Division: 2 games moved Tranmere Rovers v QPR Sunderland v Manchester City	First Division: 2 matches postponed Ipswich Town v Middlesbrough Huddersfield Town v Birmingham City	
		Third Division: 1 match postponed Cardiff City v Chester City	

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

European outlook clouded by concern

By Kevin McCarron

THE hush that fell over Scottish football yesterday was appropriate for a period of mourning. The most troubling of the poor results in Europe was suffered by Rangers and, after that 3-0 defeat by IFK Gothenburg in the European Cup, they seemed not only to be grieving, but also to have withdrawn from public life.

Their chairman, David Murray, was, however, willing to confirm that Walter Smith, the manager, will not be dismissed. The absence of wider comment from Rangers stemmed from the fact that they have no match this weekend, since their game at Kilmarnock was postponed due to the absence of several players on international duty. It is also right, however, that the leading Scottish League premier division clubs should have little to say for themselves.

Kilmarnock were the only one of the four representatives

Non-league preview 40
Hateley at Hull 44
Steve McManaman 45

to succeed in Europe and a 2-1 victory over Shelbourne at Rugby Park in the Cup-Winners' Cup, with the winner arriving in injury time, can barely be passed off as a renaissance. Dundee United are also left to brood, having failed to score an away goal in Turkey and so giving Trabzonspor a 1-0 advantage to carry into the second leg.

Celtic, by all accounts, should be rather ashamed by a 2-1 defeat against Tirol Innsbruck in Austria. While giving them a sound chance of reaching the first round in the UEFA Cup, it also disguised the low quality of their performance. Elevating the standards, at home to Dunfermline Athletic, may prove awkward, with Stephanie Mahe, Morten Wieghorst and Alan Stubbs all likely to be absent through injury.

There are no new signings at the club either. The deadline for registering players for the next round of the UEFA Cup has passed and neither Marc Rieper, of West Ham United, nor Paolo Alves, of Sporting Lisbon, has yet been signed.

Jorge Cadete, who is at home in Lisbon and reportedly suffering from depression, has been linked with a move to the Spanish club, Celta Vigo.

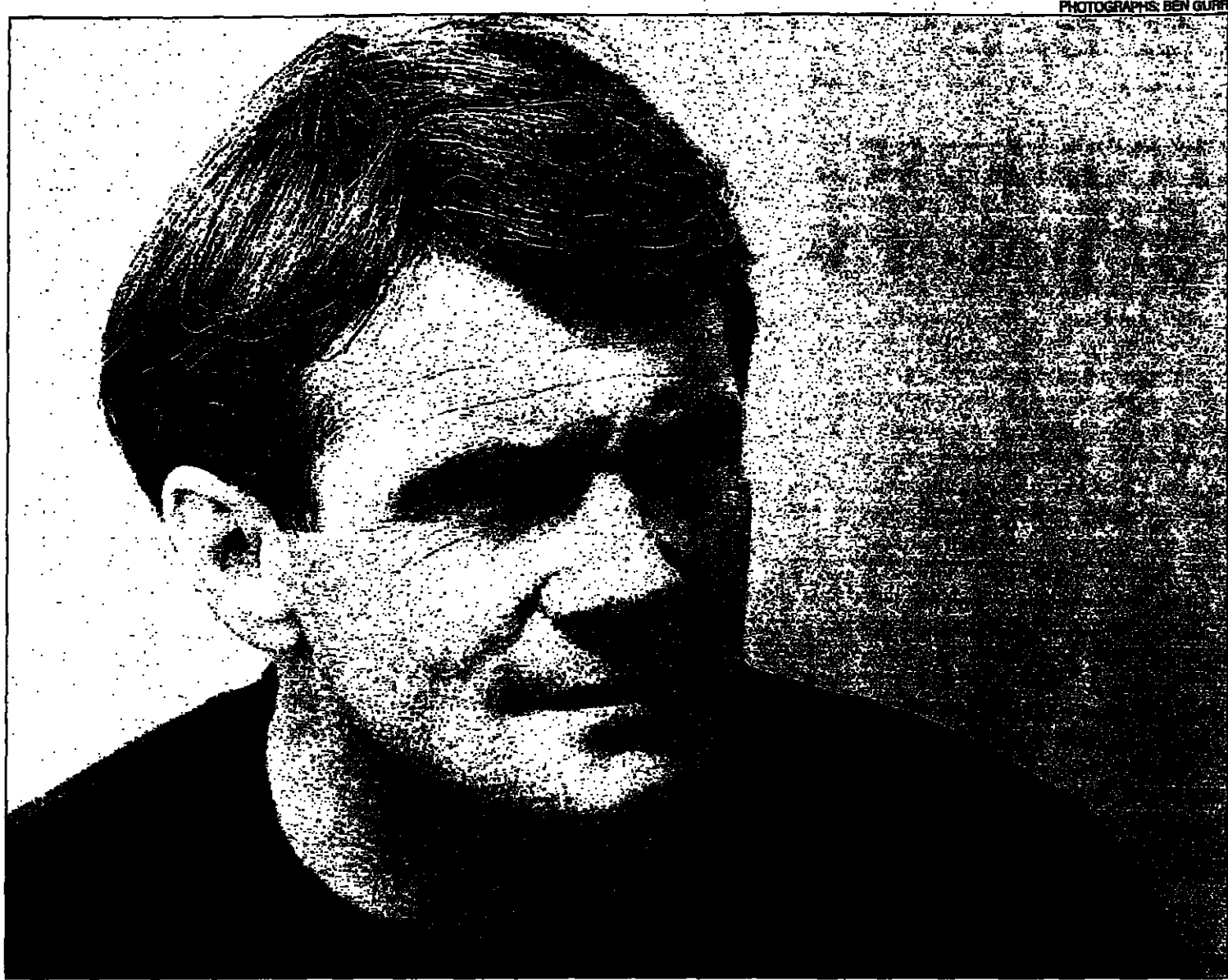
For once, it is Scotland's less prominent clubs who are in the grip of high spirits. Hibernian sound especially brash, given that they required a play-off to avoid relegation. A few new signings and a win over Celtic on the opening day of the season have been stimulating.

There is an endearing quality about Hibernian in their readiness to place their trust in the inherently unreliable. Chic Charnley is 34 and has been sent off 15 times in Scotland alone, but Jim Duffy, the manager at Easter Road, never hesitated to make him the mainspring of the side.

The midfield player struck the winner against Celtic and contrived to score from 50 yards against Alloa, in the Coca-Cola Cup, last weekend. However, Dundee United, tomorrow's opponents, are adept at neutralising the opposition's dangers and the true worth of the flair possessed by men such as Charnley and Tony Rougier will be examined at Tannadice. In this game, Hibernian may find a reliable indication of their prospects this season.

These are weeks, however, when every club is carrying out self-assessment. Having been overwhelmed at times against Rangers at Ibrox, Heart of Midlothian should find a more suitable yardstick in this afternoon's fixture with Aberdeen at Tynecastle. The visitors have had an adventurous summer in the transfer market and although a few newcomers are injured at present, a revival is anticipated. Yet, after the goalless game against Kilmarnock, supporters will be eager for evidence that the return of Eoin Jess has brought greater menace to the side.

Motherwell, should they defeat St Johnstone at Fir Park today, will take over the leadership of the premier division. In early August, such a position may have no concrete value, but encouragement such as this is still welcome at a club that had been numbered among the candidates for relegation.



Houghton will be looking to put the experience gained from 18 years as a player to good use at Elm Park, on and off the pitch

Houghton adds words to action

Russell Kempson meets an Ireland international relishing his dual role in the first division

Instead of sitting and relaxing on the grass, after an up-tempo training session in the midday sun, Ray Houghton stands and holds court. He talks to those lounging before him and imparts a smidgen of the knowledge gleaned from 18 years in the game. Houghton is still the player, but now also the coach. His team-mates listen intently to the calm yet authoritative Glaswegian brogue.

Houghton, 35, is with his seventh club — Reading, of the Nationwide League first division — and is easing into his new role since being released by Crystal Palace during the summer. He felt he still had much to offer Palace for their FA Carling Premiership campaign, but on returning from holiday in Portugal, he discovered that he was unwanted and unemployed.

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, had been trying to reach him at his home in Loughton, Essex, but had spoken only to the answering machine. "I eventually got the message, rang Steve and that was it," Houghton said. "It was a bit of a shock at first. I'd played in the top flight for ten years and I thought that my experience would help. Obviously, that wasn't the case."

Ray Lewington, Palace's first-team coach, offered more positive advice. Terry Bullivant, a mutual friend, had moved from Barnet to Reading in the close season. He suggested that Houghton contact him, which he did, and visions of the dole queue swiftly evaporated.

Elm Park's long-awaited back-room revamp had finally materialised, comprising Bullivant, the manager, Allan Harris, his assistant and former No 2 to Terry Venables at Barcelona, Houghton, the player-coach, and Alan Pardew,

the reserve team coach and former Palace player. They have been charged with securing first-division survival during the final term at Elm Park and safe passage to a new multipurpose stadium on the edge of town. It could be a considerable task.

"I'd been thinking of getting into coaching for some time," Houghton said. "I did a little bit. I got a taste for it when Dave Bassett was managing at Palace. I'd speak my mind, in the dressing-room before or during a game, if I saw something wasn't right or noticed something that was relevant."

"This is a great chance for me and I'm enjoying it. Having not done it properly before, you never know exactly what you've got to do, but the other guys make it easy. They just tell me to go and do what I want, to do what feels right."

Born in Glasgow, of Scottish-Irish parentage, Houghton left for England at ten years old. Trials with Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers proved brief and, at 16, he started work for J & B Whisky in London as a clerk, despatching the amber nectar to all parts of the United States.

Three years with West Ham United produced one appearance as a substitute, but success was only a characteristically short, scurrying step away. With Fulham, he missed promotion to the old first division in the last game of the season; with Oxford United, he made his first appearance at Wembley when they won the Milk Cup in 1986.

He collected four winners' medals



The new player-coach leads a warm-up session before training

with Liverpool — two in the championship, two in the FA Cup — and helped Aston Villa lift the Coca-Cola Cup in 1994. Palace also benefited from his midfield industry, when they returned to the Premiership via the play-offs last season.

Ireland holds special memories, too. He scored the goal — his first of five in 69 internationals — when they defeated England 1-0 in Stuttgart in the 1988 European championship finals. "To score against England was something I'd always dreamt about," he said with a smile, momentarily betraying his true heritage.

A year later, he was afforded a hero's welcome by the inhabitants of Buncrana, Co Donegal, where his father, James, had been brought up. "They just wanted to say well done and thank me for the goal," he said. "They held a civic reception and thousands of people turned up, with flags flying and bands playing. Dad hadn't been there for years and it was nice for him to go back. Not long after, he died."

Another Houghton goal secured a 1-0 victory against Italy in Giants Stadium, New York, in the 1994 World Cup finals and he relishes the prospect of Ireland again reaching the concluding stages of the tournament in France next year. Beating Lithuania on Wednesday, in a qualifying match in Dublin, would help the cause.

"Coming to Reading was a bit of a culture shock at first," he said. "You're used to playing with so many top-class players and it's a real eye-opener, but the attitude of everyone here is excellent and if we don't succeed, it won't be through the lack of trying. Everyone wants to learn, listen and do well."

Little forced to rethink after Villa's calamitous first week

By Richard Hobson

IT SOUNDS so simple. Solidity at the back, established, Brian Little merely had to strengthen his attacking force to mould Aston Villa into a side that could make a realistic challenge for the FA Carling Premiership title.

After their worst start for 15 years, however, the break this weekend could not come at a better time for the Villa manager. Successive defeats leave them bottom of the table and the goals against column — five conceded — is at least as great a concern as the failure to score in each of the first two matches.

The team, 3-0 down, was booed off the field at Villa Park after the first half against Blackburn Rovers on Wednesday night and the eventual 4-0 defeat was their heaviest since April 1995. While it is too early in the season to talk of decline and failure, the modern world of top-level football, with its lucrative rewards, demands prompt solutions when problems arise. There is rarely the scope for a step backwards in the quest to stride ever forwards.

In the period before Villa face Newcastle United next Saturday, Little must decide whether to continue with his ambitious three-man forward line or revert to the 3-5-2 formation that has enabled Villa Cup qualification in each of the past two seasons. "Perhaps there is a need to get back to a system which has brought us some degree of success," Little said.

Yet a feeling emerged towards the end of last season that opponents, at least the best of them, had become comfortable against the "old" Villa. Little said on the eve of the season that flexibility was now the key to his side's development. He could not have anticipated that the defence — the second-weakest behind Arsenal over the past two seasons — would begin to struggle.

A section of supporters are unhappy at a lack of transfer activity over the summer after a stock exchange flotation in May that raised £15 million. Other than Stan Collymore, a predictable acquisition, the only fresh face is that of a fringe player, Simon Grayson. Contrast this with the activity at Liverpool, Newcastle and Arsenal, three of the four clubs who finished above Villa last season.

Mark Draper, the most creative of their midfield players, has endured a lean year and was fortunate to play ahead of Ian Taylor against Blackburn. Ugo Ehiogu, who Little insists is fully fit, has appeared particularly hesitant since a four-month injury while the new system has offered far less scope for Alan Wright to roam the left flank.

Collymore has made a subdued introduction to his new club. This, perhaps, not surprising as he had never played in a three-man attack before the opening day of the season against Leicester City. Against Newcastle, he can expect to partner Dwight Yorke in a more orthodox front line with Savo Milosevic likely to drop out.

"We do not often lose two games in a row, so we have to take stock and be sensible," Little said. "People think they feel worse than everybody else, but I can tell them nobody feels worse than me at the moment. It is my responsibility and I am not going to hide from it. I will learn quickly and try to do what is right over the next few days."

REWARDING TIMES

£100,000 to be won playing ITF

For full details of how to

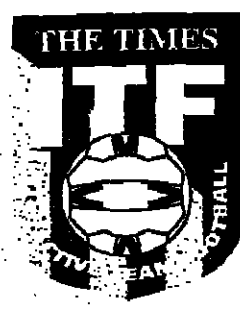
play ITF, and the chance to win our

£50,000 top

prize, see

Sport on

Monday.



THE TIMES

Spackman takes over as supporters get their way

By Russell Kempson

NIGEL SPACKMAN, the former Chelsea, Liverpool and Rangers midfielder player, was not the most popular member of Sheffield United's Nationwide League first division squad last season. Many of his 24 league appearances were blighted by taunting from disenchanted United supporters. Yesterday, when he was appointed to succeed Howard Kendall as manager at Bramall Lane, not a dissenting voice was heard.

Spackman, 36, took over in a caretaker capacity in June, when Kendall departed for the FA Carling Premiership and a third stint with Everton. Although fans were initially wary of his effective promotion from assistant manager, they were gradually won over during the summer.

United made a successful pre-season tour to Norway and have beaten Sunderland 2-0 in the league and drawn 1-1 with Wrexham in the Coca-Cola Cup first round since the season started. The club has apparently been inundated with letters and faxes, all requesting that Spackman should be given the job.

"I'd never had such a crowd before I came here and it was disappointing," Spackman, who has signed a



three-year contract, said. "There was a time when I thought I might be better off elsewhere. You sometimes think: 'What am I putting myself through this for?' You feel you could easily turn your back on it, but I have never walked away from anything in my career and, hopefully, I won't in the future."

"In the end, it's down to fan power if you get a job or not. If things hadn't gone well in pre-season and we hadn't had a good result against Sunderland, then a more experienced manager would probably be here. If the fans get behind the team and don't boo them as they booed me, then we can be successful together."

United, who were beaten by Crystal Palace in the first division play-off final last season, resume their league campaign against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux. Although Wolves have won both of their opening matches 2-0, against Norwich City and Queens Park Rangers,

Mark McGhee, their manager, expects to experience a more challenging task this afternoon.

"United are a big, strong side, probably more powerful than we are, so we will need to pass the ball well," McGhee said. "They were very unlucky not to go up last season and I think they will be strong candidates again."

Stockport County, who have lost their first two matches, open their Edgeley Park campaign against Bury, the team that pipped them to the second division title last season. Gary Megson, the Stockport manager, will play his four new signings — Martin McIntosh, Ian Gray, Colin Woodthorpe and Vassilios Kaligeracos.

Reading play Swindon Town at Elm Park, with Carl Asaba, their recent £800,000 capture from Brentford, making his home league debut, while Portsmouth include Matthias Svensson, their Swedish striker, against Port Vale at Fratton Park. He has recovered from a leg injury.

Crews Alexandra, already beaten twice this season, take on West Bromwich Albion at Gresty Road and Charlton Athletic play Oxford United at The Valley. Dean Furse, the Oxford centre back, deputises for Phil Whelan, who is injured.

Bilic snaps up chance and proves that it's good to talk

SLAVEN BILIC still insists that his summer move from West Ham United to Everton was all about ambition. When attending a photo-call for Everton's new sponsors, One 2 One, the mobile phone company — he was asked to hold the firm's product to his ear and engage in mock conversation. "Be more realistic," the snapper enthused. "Great stuff." It was later discovered that Bilic had spent five minutes chatting to his mother in Croatia.

PUBLIC relations persons — they of the sharp suits, cheery smiles and solid handshakes — play an increasing role in modern-day football, bringing the latest news to Joe Soap and his cheap-seat comrades in the most palatable manner. Even humble Chester City have employed PR experts, though Mark Guterman, the chairman at Deva Stadium, was not entirely impressed with their initial press release. His name was spelt with two Ts.

MOHAMED AL FAYED, owner of Harrods and the chairman of Fulham, could be excused for being preoccupied with family matters of



late, but he put on a brave, optimistic face at Craven Cottage last weekend. "Football is my passion," he said. "We will be in the Premiership in three years." One female fan, though grateful for Al Fayed's £30 million takeover, still had reservations. "Yeah, he's fantastic," she drooled, "but I do miss Jimmy Hill."

CLUBS will try anything to entice clients to their grounds on match days, ranging from attractive deals for little Johnny to become a mascot, to less appealing sponsorship, jockstrap schemes. When it comes to corporate hospitality — luring in those with the real lucre — Coventry City cannot stand accused of being bland or boring. Last season, Highfield Road's high-rollers were promised: "Punch on Arrival."

FOOTBALLING memories come in all shapes and sizes and now you, too, can own your very own "Gloriaflia Needlepoint" cushion, with your favourite club tastefully stitched into it. It is the brainchild of Jennifer Berman, of Mill Hill Village, London, and although Steve McManaman has had to hastily cancel his Barcelona order, business is expected to be brisk. Even at £49.50 a cushion, no self-respecting sofa should be without one.

IT IS early days yet, of course, but many pre-season pundits already have a large smattering of egg on face. Blackburn Rovers at the top of the FA Carling Premiership? Aston Villa pointless, goalless, and bottom? Leicester City winning at Liverpool? Perhaps Ken Bates, the irascible Chelsea chairman, got it right by declining to gaze into his Premiership crystal ball. "I don't like those silly predictions," he said. "If you say you're going to win it, you look arrogant. If you don't, you look a prat. I'd rather be neither."

STRANGE BUT TRUE... New Balance, the football footwear firm, uses synthetic snake and kangaroo in its boots.



RUGBY UNION 41

Bath secure
Evans in
two-year deal

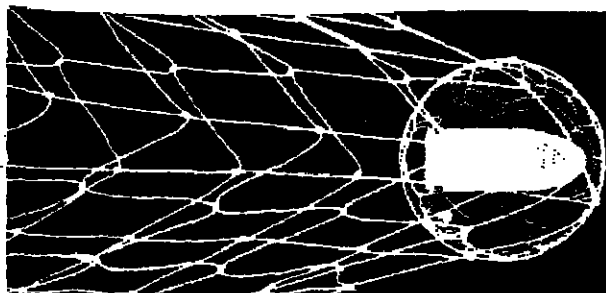
SPORT

CRICKET 42-43

Century by
Curtis keeps
Glamorgan waiting



SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997



FOOTBALL

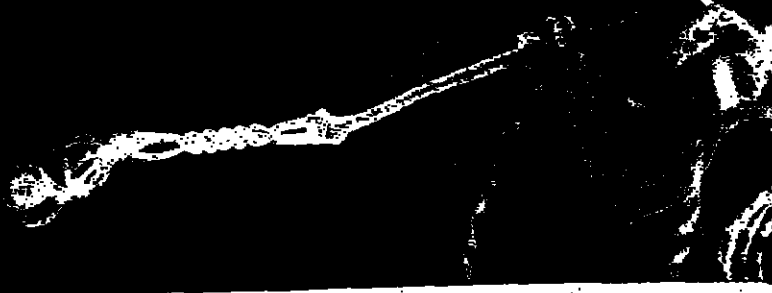
Mark Hateley
faces a new
challenge at Hull
page 44

THE TIMES

Under
the skin
of sport

CRICKET

Who will England
pick for the
final Test?
page 42



England forward shocked by Liverpool's willingness to sell him to Barcelona

McManaman ponders future

By DAVID MADDOCK
AND OLIVER HOLT

STEVE McMANAMAN will return to Merseyside this afternoon a troubled man. The England international could be forgiven for thinking that his frustrating experience in Barcelona is the signal for the beginning of the end of his Liverpool career.

McManaman returns a disillusioned footballer, not just at the treatment he received at the hands of Barcelona, but at the attitude of his Anfield club. Speaking last night, he revealed his surprise, and anger, that his club had agreed a deal with their Spanish counterparts, only to hint they did so because of his attitude to transfer negotiations.

In a statement released yesterday when the proposed £12.5-million transfer broke down even before negotiations were opened, Liverpool said: "For several months Liverpool Football Club attempted to renegotiate a new contract, without agreement, to keep the player beyond the length of his contract."

"This week, Liverpool received an eight-figure offer from Barcelona, and we felt

Non-league preview 40
Brian Glanville 44
Hateley at Hull 44
Spackman appointed 46

obliged to inform the player and give him an opportunity, if he wished to, of speaking to them. At the same time, Liverpool again stressed that we wanted Steve to stay and sign a new contract."

But McManaman countered that Liverpool, far from going to great lengths to keep him, have, in fact, barely begun negotiations. "They told me they wanted me to stay, and I said I was happy in principle with their ideas," he said.

"But even though they made one offer just after the new year, they never contacted my adviser or lawyer to take it any further and I was happy to not pursue it because I had more than two years left on my contract."

"I spoke to Barcelona, because Liverpool said they had accepted an offer, and felt obliged to let me to talk to them. I didn't want to leave Liverpool and it would be ridiculous to suggest that I have forced Liverpool to sell me. I'm more than happy to stay at Liverpool."

Whatever the confusion about McManaman's influence in promoting the possible transfer, it is clear that Liverpool are prepared to sell the player, and there is likely to be no shortage of takers. When news of the £12.5-million deal flashed across Europe, coaches at the top in Italy and Spain would have been alerted to the



While Rivaldo was presented as Barcelona's new signing yesterday, McManaman was left to slip away from his hotel and fly quietly back to Liverpool

surprising news that the Merseyside club are ready to sell a home-grown player.

If Barcelona, possibly the world's biggest club, were considering the purchase of the player at a record fee for an Englishman leaving these shores, then it suggests clubs of similar stature will come to the same conclusion. What price McManaman displaying his elusive skills in Italian or Spanish colours before the season's end?

Amid the hullabaloo of the past 48 hours, the question of why Liverpool are prepared to sell has been overlooked but yesterday's statement hinted at it: Peter Robinson, the chief executive, is afraid that he could lose the player for nothing under the Bosman ruling should his contract be allowed to run out, and would

prefer to accept a sizeable fee now.

If McManaman does leave, then he must be hoping that any transfer goes more smoothly than that proposed by Barcelona. Speaking yesterday, he hinted strongly that the Catalan club had used him as an unwitting pawn in a complicated game of chess with their preferred target, Rivaldo, the man they eventually signed for around £1.5 million from Deportivo de la Coruña.

Barcelona had opened talks with him two weeks ago, as they did with Denilson, his fellow Brazilian. They had hit problems over both the fee and the salary with both players, and then decided to turn — apparently — to McManaman.

In fact, he says, they used

him, and then abused him to cover their tracks. "When I arrived in Barcelona, I did not meet a single person from the club," McManaman said. "Even before I flew out there, I realised there was a less than five per cent chance that I would join them. The man charged with negotiations at

'I did not want to join Barcelona. I want to play for Liverpool. I was born there and my family lives there. It is the place dearest to me'
Steve McManaman's World, page 45



the club was in fact away from the city, talking to another player and I think that they said the deal fell through because I was greedy as an excuse to their fans for why the deal fell through."

Bobby Robson, the Barcelona general manager, said last night that he had presented his report on McManaman to the Catalan giants on Thursday morning after watching him in action in FA Cup Premier League matches against Wimbledon on Saturday and Leicester City at Anfield on Wednesday night but that he was aware Barcelona were pursuing other options including Rivaldo.

"Rivaldo was one of the best players in Spain last season," Robson said. "I don't know how many goals he got but I would think it was more than

McManaman. He is great on free kicks, which we need. He has got a swerve and a dip. He is left-footed and he beats people."

"We have got Figo, who is a fantastic player on the right of midfield, and I think Louis van Gaal wanted somebody wide on the left. Rivaldo has got a lovely pass on him, too. He is in Barcelona having a medical and if he is fine, he will sign today."

Officials at the Catalan club told Spanish newspapers yesterday that they had warned McManaman against travelling to Barcelona while the club was still negotiating with other players. They repeated the claim that they had been dissuaded from signing the Englishman because of his demands for an annual salary of £2 million.

Dalglish renews link with Rush

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

KENNY DALGLISH, the Newcastle United manager, last night took the Liverpool old boys' reunion — started this week when he signed John Barnes — a stage further by taking Ian Rush, his striking partner for so many years at Anfield, to St James' Park on a free transfer.

Rush, 35, who endured a miserable year at Elland Road last season after his move from Liverpool and scored just three goals in 36 Premiership appearances for Leeds, travelled to the North East yesterday and completed the transfer just before the deadline for eligibility for the Champions' League stage of the European Cup.

His signing on a one-year contract, prompted by the long-term injury to Alan Shearer and the sale of Les Ferdinand to Tottenham Hotspur, appears to confirm that Dalglish has not been given sufficient funds to buy a leading young striker. It comes after he added Stuart Pearce, 35, from Nottingham Forest, and Barnes, 33, to his squad, also on free transfers.

If anyone can see some dying embers from Rush's glorious career, though, it is the man who provided the Welshman with so much of his ammunition in their days at Liverpool. Dalglish was confident enough to make a wry aside about the age issue yesterday. "We are developing our youth policy," he said. "There are no problems. The deal is done and he will be registered for Europe."

Rush, who won five championship medals and one European Cup-winners' medal at Liverpool, will not be eligible for the second leg of Newcastle's European Cup qualifying tie against Croatia Zagreb in ten days' time. Dalglish's team will take a slender lead to Croatia after their controversial 2-1 victory at St James' Park on Wednesday night.

Tiger tries to shoot from hip but misfires

The time has come for Woods and his supporters to accept that nobody is bigger than the game of golf itself

So, it turns out that we have to ask ourselves: are our hips "firing" correctly? According to his coach, Butch Harmon, on telly on Thursday night, Tiger Woods' failure to astonish in the first round at US PGA Championship this week was all down to this interesting problem — some sort of ballistic malfunction of the pelvis.

We guessed what Butch was talking about, having seen many a hero in the same situation in westerns. Tiger took dead-eye aim, you see, but instead of his hips going "bang, bang," they went "click, click." And it's always a disaster when that happens. While his audience gasped "Oh no" and gripped one another in alarm, Tiger looked down at his non-firing body in dismay and click-clicked again. "Well, darn it, if my hips ain't jammed," he said.

Everyone wants Tiger Woods to be a consistently brilliant player. There is no room for disagreement about that. We so avidly

want his hips to fire correctly that if his hands also detonate and his feet explode, that's fine. Woods is an inspiring fellow whose follow-through is so vigorously classic that his torso ends up pointing in the opposite direction from his feet. As for the length of his shots, it's as though an athlete suddenly halved the 100 metres record, or a horse jumped 8R 6in. Golf-course designers now weep at midnight at their drawing-boards. "I don't know where to put the bunkers any more," they wail.

Lumbering him with the "I am Tiger Woods" paragon stuff was unfair, though understandable. He's handsome, young, a perfect racial composite and, moreover, never says boo to a goose. All this is marketing, though, and we should not be distracted by it. No, the reason that people are gawping about Tiger is that, when he assailed the Masters so magnificently this spring, he not only excelled personally but offered an insane hope to millions. With a Merlin-like

caddie at his side and with his magic Excalibur clubs, he went forth with a pure heart and, over 72 holes, appeared to conquer golf itself. It seems silly to think of it now, of course. Nobody beats golf for more than five minutes, but for one brief, shining moment — as Tiger



strode up the 18th at Augusta, waving to fans — it really looked as though a human being could challenge this annoying game, wrestle it and finally pose with a foot on its neck. Here, revealed, was the Pete Sampras of the birdie, the best beyond argument.

No one will ever be the Pete Sampras of golf, though: there are too many factors to control. Your hips may be firing like Excalibur, but now your eye's packed up and the wind is gusting right to left. No wonder the characteristic look on a professional golfer's face is "How did that happen?" mixed with "Oh well, think of the money." When you take full account of what Nick Faldo has been through, he actually looks quite cheerful.

Tiger's been looking a bit grumpy lately, but you can't blame him. At the Open Championship this summer, they put up a lanky banner that read "Troon takes Tigers", but it wasn't Troon that fought back. It was golf. Now everything is quite normal again, with no Once and Future King nonsense, just a man with a stick against the Almighty. Tiger may have astonishing skills and everyone adores him, but golf doesn't bow-tow to anybody and that's a fact.

Winged Foot wonders, page 47

LONG DISTANCE UP TO 66p
CHEAPER THAN B.T.

THINK ST

Destination	BT	FT	Savings
USA	24p	10p	58%
EIRE	23p	15p	33%
SOUTH AFRICA	80p	47p	41%
JAPAN	77p	28p	66%

STANDARD RATE one minute call including VAT

If you've got a BT phone, you can make big savings to over 250 countries by adding First Telecom's service to it.

Once you've opened an account with us, you just dial a simple number before you make any long distance or overseas calls.

To see how much further we can make your money go, Think First.

FIRST TELECOM

0800 458 9191

TICKET 42-43
Century by
Curtis keeps
organ waiting

elona
re
Daly
ren
link
Re

IS DISTANCE
CHEAPER THAN

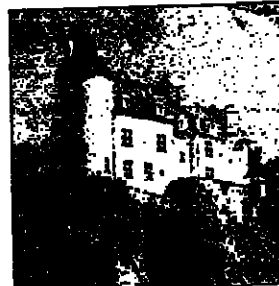
THINK

Women
who wear
pinstriped
trousers
Fashion • 3

THE TIMES

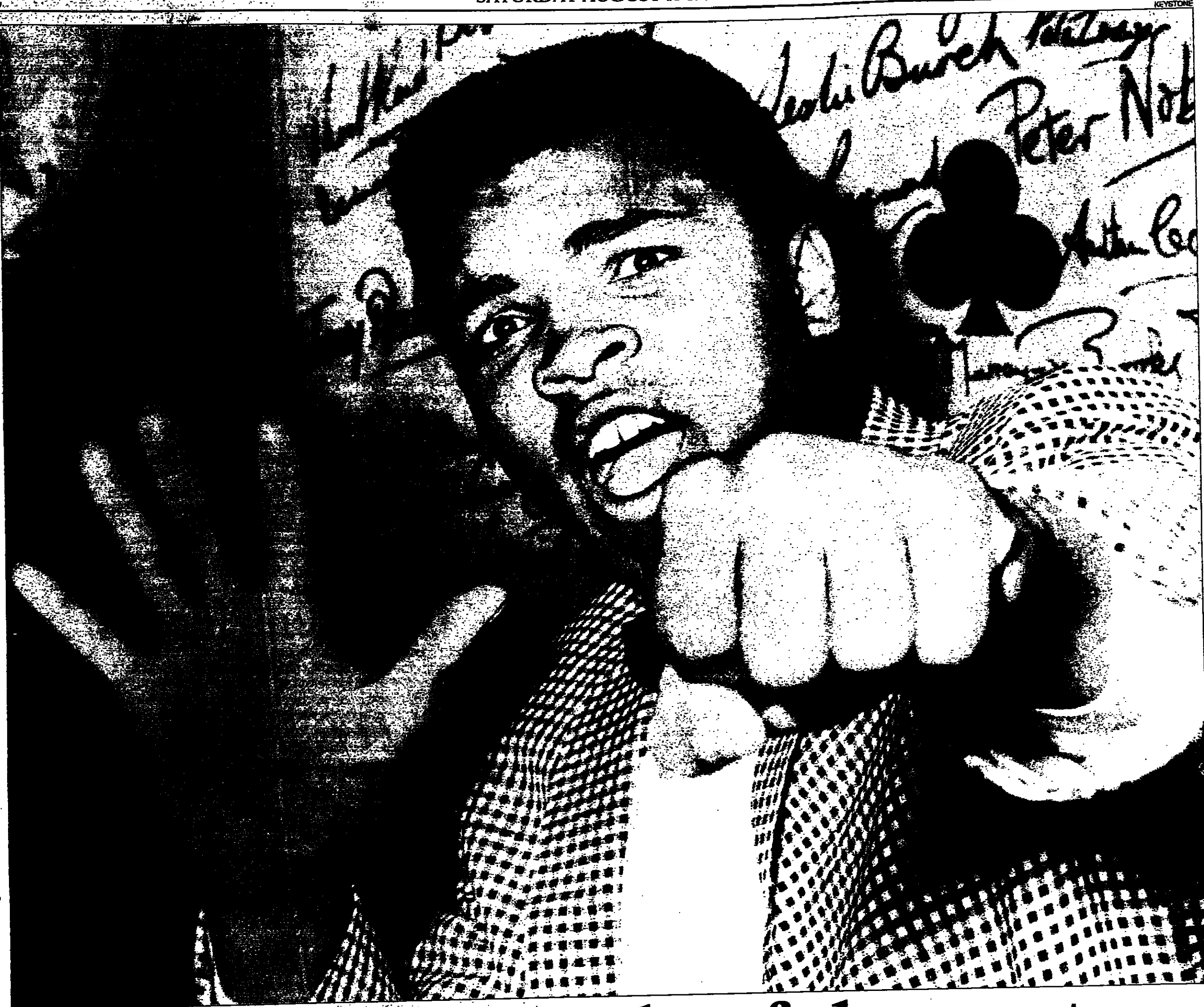
weekend

Pamper
yourself
with Relais
& Chateaux
Travel offer



SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997

3
5



The Greatest's sale of the century

As soon as we reach the next century, sports writers around the world will be moved to consider who was the sports person of the millennium. The media will, almost certainly, let the public decide and some impressive contenders will enter the lists, such as Muhammad Ali, Pelé, Paavo Nurmi, Jesse Owens, Emil Zatopek, Martina Navratilova, Mildred 'Babe' Didrikson and, from earlier times when much of the world was coloured pink, W.G. Grace and Captain Barclay Allardice.

It would be surprising, however, if Ali did not remain The Greatest.

A collection of Ali memorabilia worth £1.5 million, which will be exhibited by Christie's in London from August 27-31, strengthens the great man's claim to a place at the top of the millennium's pyramid of sportsmen. The collection is owned by Ronnie Paloger, of

California, who says: "People who are experts in the field of memorabilia have got goosebumps seeing my exhibition. They are just in awe."

In the same way that archaeologists unearthed the splendour of the trappings buried with the ancient kings of Egypt, so, too, Paloger has revived the golden years of the heavyweight kings which lay buried in the 1960s and 1970s.

Particularly important is a little-known contract that Ali signed to meet Frazier in his first fight after returning from his nearly four-year exile. In fact, he did not meet Frazier but Jerry Quarry, but the choice of Frazier as the first opponent is significant when one considers that Tyson chose to meet a no-hoper, Peter McNeeley, in his first contest after coming out of prison.

Paloger says: "I grew up in the 1960s and I'm a product of the 1960s, so Ali was my hero. Mickey Mantle was my

Muhammad Ali was not only king of the ring - he was the sportsman of the millennium, as a £1.5 million sale of his memorabilia shows, Sri Sen writes

baseball hero and Ali was even bigger than that. He was a major hero to me and my generation. We cared for him.

"When I got into the memorabilia stage, collecting Ali stuff, I was ready to focus on one person. I was able to do something with one identity, because in baseball you could follow 100 years and thousands of people, and to me Ali was not only an unbelievable athlete but an unbelievable human being. He stood for something, for everybody. A man of courage. He stood up for his convictions and suffered greatly for it. He crossed all social, racial and economic lines. Ali not only fought but had something to say. This is unique, compared to the athletes of

today, because basically they don't say anything that impacts on society or on anything but themselves. Ali is one of the greatest Americans to have ever come out of our country."

How many people would have given up their title for three and a half years and lost millions and millions of dollars? And the attacks that he took from the press without due process? He was stripped of his title within two hours of taking a stance against the Vietnam War. Unheard of. And it happened in the United States.

The Ali collection, which will be sold on October 19 in Los Angeles by Christie's, contains

3,000 items, and the 278-page catalogue, documented and set out chronologically, gives you a complete pictorial view of the boxer's career. All the personal artefacts were acquired from promoters or members of his entourage. Many items came from the collection of Drew Bundini Brown, Ali's cornerman and cheer-leader who coined the phrase: "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."

The pieces, collected with the diligence of an Otaku (Japanese devotee of modern memorabilia), range from Ali's first amateur boots to the last World Championship robe he wore when he regained the title from Leon Spinks in 1978 to become the first man to win the world heavyweight title three times;

from Cassius Clay's first Golden Gloves trophy to the Muhammad Ali D-Con Roach traps. If you have a ticket from a fight between Ali and Al "Blue" Lewis at Croke Park, Dublin, hold on to it; it could be worth a fortune, because there is only one known to exist. The white boots with the lightning bolts on the ankles, worn for a fight with Foreman, are valued at \$20,000 to \$30,000. There are other big-fight shoes at about \$10,000.

The centrepiece of the sale is the magnificent gown worn by Ali for the "Rumble in the Jungle" against Foreman in Zaire in 1974. It has no estimated price and took the collector five years to acquire. Paloger even has the handwritten list of journalists' forecasts about the outcome of the fight. There, alongside Norman Mailer and Budd Schulberg, is the name of Colin Hart of *The Sun*. All three said Ali would win.

Paloger's favourite pieces are

the handwritten letters of the young Cassius Clay. "That Rome Bound [Olympic Games, 1960] letter in which he said he is the best in the United States is unbelievable," Paloger says. "It showed the power of the young man's mind and his confidence in his game plan. The vision of what he wanted to be: champion and the greatest. And he became the greatest."

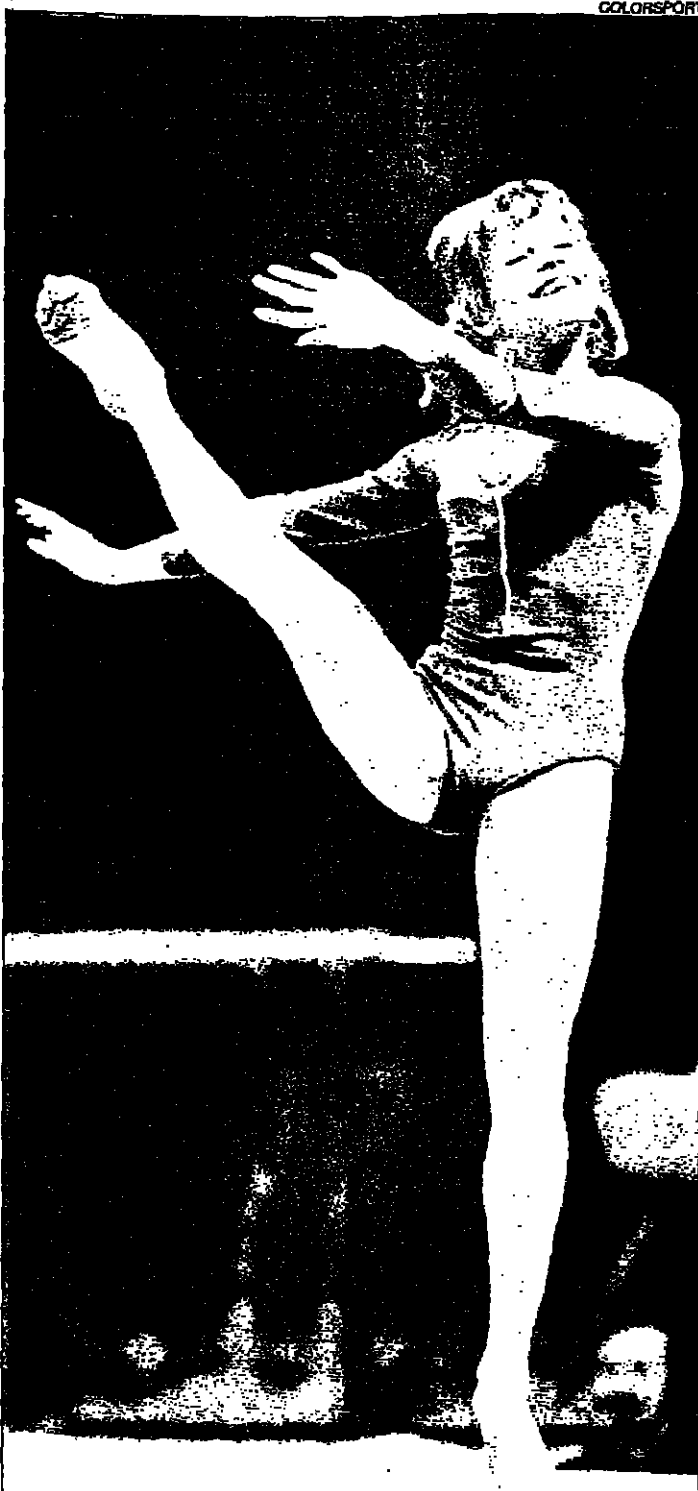
There will, of course, be many who think their heroes greater. Nurmi, the father of distance running, broke 22 world records from 1,500 metres up to 20 kilometres, won nine gold medals and three silver in three Olympics; Pelé played in two World Cups and in 1,363 first-class matches scored 1,281 goals; Owens took four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin in sprints and the long jump and, a year earlier, at

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING	3	GARDENING	4-6	COUNTRY LIFE	7	PROPERTY	8-10	PETS	11	FEATURES	13	HOME LIFE	14	TRAVEL	15-21
----------	---	-----------	-----	--------------	---	----------	------	------	----	----------	----	-----------	----	--------	-------

Follow in the wake of the world's greatest explorers on a Swan Hellenic Winter Cruise. Call 0171 800 2200. SWAN HELLENIC 73
Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, India, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand. Contact Swan Hellenic, 77 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PP or your nearest ABTA travel agent.

A P&O Group



Olga Korbut transformed gymnastics from a minority sport

Only a handful of athletes have ever achieved the public acclaim, or perfectionism, of Ali

Winning is the only thing that matters

If acclaim reflects sporting worth, then Muhammad Ali and Pelé, the former boxer and the former footballer, are supreme. Their profiles would be recognised in more parts of the world than those of the Pope or the President of the United States.

Pelé, now Brazil's Minister for Sport, did not have to destroy, or be destroyed by, anyone else to earn his laurels. A two-day truce was declared in the war between Nigeria and Biafra while both sides watched him play. Red Chinese frontier guards left their posts to greet him in Hong Kong; he had audiences with two Popes, five emperors, ten kings, 110 heads of state. Born close to poverty, a World Cup winner at 17 and then twice more, as well as the scorer of 1,321 goals, Pelé was the consummate athlete and remains the ambassador for his "beautiful game".

Some man. But where do sporting women rate? As the World's Athletic Championships in Athens last week reminded us, women were only allowed to adorn the arena for the first half of the modern Olympic century. Yet four stand apart: Mary Peters won just one Olympic gold, but converted that into trying to unite Northern Ireland. Martina Navratilova, serving and volleying as close to the standard of man as any female has, claimed 167 tennis singles titles. Olga Korbut transformed gymnastics from a minority sport to one which millions of children aspire to, albeit with a pixieish style which ended the period of womanly grace on the floor and the beam.

However, it is Irena Szewinska who was the first lady of sport. Born in Leningrad, to Polish parents, she competed in five Olympics from 1964 to 1980, won seven medals, from 100 metres to 400 metres to long jump, and still serves today as a member of the Women's Commission of International Athletics.

Moreover, masking extreme stubbornness with feminine serenity, Szewinska disproved the theory that an athlete cannot also be a mother and a home keeper, and at the same time be a forecaster



Emil Zatopek, left, Martina Navratilova, centre, and Pelé: their exceptional talent was harnessed to indomitable ambition

employed by the National Institute for Economics in Warsaw.

Such people do leave their mark. Roger Bannister was knighted for breaking the barrier of the four-minute mile in 1954, rather than for his subsequent work as a neurologist. Dick Fosbury, an engineer, literally reversed the way generations of people approach the high jump and changed, through example, the mechanics and the perspective of an international sport.

Emil Zatopek changed my own perspective, even though we met 25 years after his incomparable feat of winning the 5,000-metre, 10,000-metre and 20-mile marathon races — all within eight days — at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

He appeared to run in agony, head rolling, tongue out, face

crimson, arms flailing. But this indomitable man, standing up against the Soviet tanks in his beloved Prague in 1968, was stripped of his lieutenant-colonel rank and sent to sweep the streets.

Nine years later, still ostracised, he was allowed to be a guest at a banquet in Prague, along with other Olympians. He showed unbroken spirit. He sang English songs extremely loudly and, of his sport, commented: "Today, the athlete is not an athlete. He's the centre of a team — doctors, scientists, coaches and so on. Sometimes I ran like a mad dog, but it was very simple, it was out of myself."

Daley Thompson, arguably the finest all-round athlete and a

decathlete unbeaten in his prime, similarly said: "It's going out there and finding out what you've got." From a broken home, after a hyperactive childhood, Thompson mastered ten sporting disciplines and the psychology of winning. "If I have a cold, I don't sneeze," he insisted. "It would let others know I was not at my best."

Harnessing his balance and timing to thoroughbred horses was Lester Piggott, who won his first race at the age of 12 and his last when he was nearing 60. He also claimed 30 classics, among his more than 4,000 victories in 26 countries. Obsessed, leading a life of continual near-starvation and dehydration to maintain his racing weight, he was better able to communicate with half-tame ani-

mals than with other humans.

Winning was natural to Carl Lewis, who won nine Olympic gold medals for running and jumping. He emulated Jesse Owens, the black American who won four golds at the 1936 Berlin Olympics under the gaze of Hitler. Lewis lacked Owens's humility but moved with the grace of a gazelle.

At cricket, no one has yet bettered Gary Sobers. With bat, ball or wicketkeeper's pads, he excelled for Barbados, the West Indies and Nottinghamshire, for whom he struck those immaculate sixes in an over against Glamorgan.

Jack Nicklaus similarly excelled with golf clubs. For more than three decades, capturing 20 majors, he elevated himself in American society — a society which pays Michael Jordan, the basketball icon, \$40 million for one season.

Nicklaus is now challenged by the young Tiger Woods, whom Nicklaus reckons will eclipse his records — if he sustains the hunger and the will.

Longevity remains paramount. Juan Manuel Fangio, five-time world motor racing champion in the 1950s, drove when the human component dominated the machine. "I felt the car entrusted to me was a living thing," he observed. And he steered a line as close to the edge of disaster as man dared.

Ali Oerter was the ultimate Olympian. Four times he went to the Games and although he never held the discus world record, four times he won the gold medal. On the third occasion, in Tokyo in 1964, he devised a "surgical collar" out of a towel tied to a leather strap, to defy doctors' orders. With two discs out of place and a torn rib cartilage, he explained: "These are the Olympics. You die for them."

Footballer, fixated, Oerter in 1980 tried a comeback. He had twice risen to a leading position in industry and he took lessons from a young ballerina who suggested he lacked something in technique. "You search for perfection," he said. "She told me I was not getting the best out of my body movement."

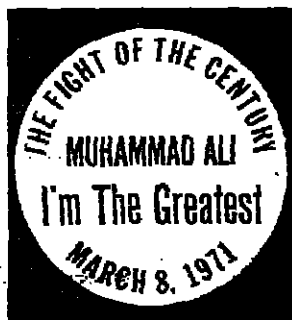
ROB HUGHES

He floated like a butterfly, but he stung like a bee

Continued from page 1

Ann Arbor, Michigan, he equalled or broke six world records in the space of 45 minutes: Zatopek won the 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres and the marathon in the 1952 Olympics. Navratilova won nine Wimbledon titles. Didrikson excelled in athletics, basketball and golf. Allardice walked 1,000 miles round Newmarket Heath in 1,000 hours in 1801 and was paid £10,000, which would be about £200,000 today. Grace, of course, was the most recognisable figure in late Victorian times after Gladstone.

None of these heroes was as dominant a world personality as Ali during their careers and after retirement. One glance at Thomas Hauser's superb biography, *Muhammad Ali, His Life and Times* (on which I have leaned for reference), shows that almost anyone who was anyone had something to say about Ali, good or bad, nothing indifferent. Even though he



"I'm the greatest" badge for the 1971 fight v Frazier

suffers from Parkinson's disease, Ali is far from finished. "I ain't dead. I'm just getting started," he says. "When I was boxing, I used to get up at six and run. Now I get up at five and pray."

Ali has been out of the ring for 16 years and yet today there is no heavyweight to rival him. Indeed, no heavyweight contest these days is complete without an appearance by the

great man. The crowd rises as one when he comes to an event and climbs into the ring and raises his hands as of old and walks slowly over to the contestants to wish them well. The twinkle is not there any more in Ali's eyes but a brave smile relieves the fears of the crowd for him. The squiggle of a smile is like the flourish of a signature that endorses his courage.

He is still the yardstick for courage, performance, endurance and success in the ring. If Mike Tyson wants to be considered the greatest he has to be measured against Ali. Tyson and all the other leading heavyweights can thank Ali for the multimillion-dollar cheques they receive for their fights. It was Ali who set the standard of payment for heavyweight championships. Ali was paid \$5,450,000 for his fight with George Foreman in 1974. He made far more than \$60 million by the end of his career, which started in 1960 and lasted 21 years.

He was the first heavyweight to win the world title three times. He lost only five of his 61 contests, but he avenged three of those defeats. He faced the most formidable foes in the world in Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier (three times), Foreman, the US Army when he refused to be inducted to fight in Vietnam, and Parkinson's. He outsmarted them all, even Parkinson's. "God gave me Parkinson's to show me I'm just a man like everybody else," he said. "To show me I've got human frailties like everyone else, because that's all I am, a man. If I die, I'll have no regrets. I have tried to live a good life and do the right thing. I'm not scared to die because I have made my peace."

Ali was a demi-god full of devilment, a clown and a ringmaster. He was the king of communication. The press hated and loved him in turn. They castigated him mercilessly when he refused to join the army to fight in Vietnam; they sat at his feet and lapped up his words when he sounded off before and after fights. He was never boring, always funny, clever, outrageous. He said before his first fight with Frazier in 1971: "Fifteen referees, I want 15 referees at this fight because there ain't no one man who can keep up with the pace I'm gonna set... On that night they'll be watching everywhere. England, France, Italy, Egypt and Israel will declare a 45-minute truce. Even Red China and Formosa. Not since time began has there been a night like this."

Ed Schuyler, the highly respected boxing writer of Associated Press, said: "There has never been a heavyweight champion, or maybe a superstar athlete, who was more accessible to the media than Ali. He could make you believe anything. Once he said he was going to levitate. Then



Posed photograph for the end of the heavyweight championship fight on May 25, 1965, in Lewiston, Maine, when Ali defeated Sonny Liston

he went up in the air. And you said, 'My god, the man is levitating'. And you knew he couldn't, but there it is. If you couldn't write about Ali, you couldn't write. He made us look good."

On the serious side, his words had a simple poetry and power to move black and white America. He brought hope to the pacifist movement in his country when it needed it most during the Vietnam war. He de-intellectualised political ideas and intellectualised human interpretation and was sought after by campuses and political leaders who opposed the war. Ali told his detractors: "You can't condemn me for wanting peace. If you do, you condemn peace itself. A rooster crows when it sees the light. Put him in the dark and he'll never crow. I've seen the light and I'm crowing."

Ted Kennedy said: "My brother Bob hollered Muhammad's resistance to the Vietnam War. It was a commitment they shared and I think Muhammad's action contributed enormously to the debate about whether the United States should be in Vietnam and galvanised some of his admirers to join protests against the war for the first time."

All dominated the 1960s and the 1970s in the ring and the 1980s and 1990s outside it, and

his presence will be undiminished when the decade ends. All the icons of his time — John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, John Lennon — are all dead and are difficult to recall by those who did not live in their time.

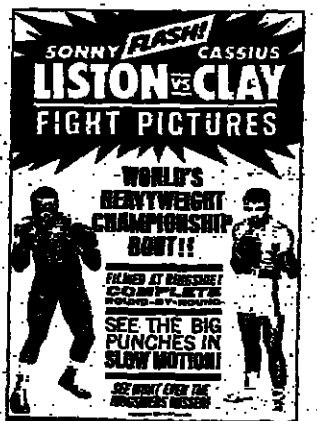
If the speeches of the Kennedys and the mobile face and curves of Marilyn Monroe cannot be readily remembered without the help of old footage

and old movies, Ali remains fresh in our mind. He was more than a king, he was a king emperor, a pharaoh, whose achievements would make future generations marvel.

The appeal to young people of the recent award-winning film about the fight between him and Foreman in Zaire in 1974, entitled *When We Were Kings*, underlines his popular-



Robe, above, worn by Ali for his fight against George Foreman in 1974



Gloves, left, worn by Ali in 1967. Ronnie Paloser, collector, with Ali, above. "He was a major hero to me and my generation. We cared for him... Ali is one of the greatest Americans to have come out of our country"



Gloves, left, worn by Ali in 1967. Ronnie Paloser, collector, with Ali, above. "He was a major hero to me and my generation. We cared for him... Ali is one of the greatest Americans to have come out of our country"

ity today. As one 28-year-old said: "It is a film that tells you something about yourself and not just about people on the screen."

"Ali is like an artefact of a culture where everything considered important had a meaning. Today's sportsman have little to say. They exist to sell designer labels."

The world will not see the like of Ali for another hundred

TALK
DIRTY
WITH
A
FRIEND
IN BATH.

GUARANTEED CHEAPER CALL BILLS
OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK.

It's time BT came clean. The truth is, Mercury is up to 33% cheaper than BT for national calls. In fact, if you don't save money on your call bill (even if you have Premier line and Friends & Family), we'll refund double the difference.

Mercury UK-Call
FreeCall 0500 500 366

Price and service correct at 10/08/97. Mercury 3 month BT's best rates for calls of 3 minutes. Service available for a quarterly fee of £1.75 inc. VAT. Free Mobile term: apply to Mercury. BT's best rates and discounts include: including line rental and temporary promotional offer. Not available on Callers Care or Business packages.

125 126 127

WEEKEND • SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997

Once they were just for men but those pinstripes are now staple

workwear for both sexes

Pinstripes are the business

Once the word pinstripe conjured up images of successful businessmen and Conservative politicians — men who wanted to appear in control. Those days are gone, and today the look has become a fashion staple for both sexes, whether they're putting on a professional front in the office or wanting to be smart yet casual out of hours.

It's not just the clientele that has changed: shops are now bursting with dozens of innovative styles in conventional needle and chalk stripes that mix the conservative with the modern. Which means that, for every modern city woman, there is a wide range of Miss Moneybags pencil skirts, masculine trouser suits and sensible separates to wear every day of the week, from the Monday morning board meet-

ing to the casual yet smart lunch at the weekend.

It is a style that allows women the freedom to experiment — a chance to emulate the chaps in a way that is modern and sassy, but not overbearing. It also allows women to get away with slightly more in the office: shorter skirts, for example, are more acceptable if they're made of charcoal-grey ticking, as are trousers if they are sharply cut in traditional striped serge fabrics.

At the international fashion shows for this season Ralph Lauren showed an androgynous collection of mannish-worsted suiting in pinstripes; Gucci also updated the Eighties power-dressing looks in more feminine dresses and suits. Subsequently, many high-street labels have followed suit, producing basic, tailored skirt and trouser shapes in pinstripes for their autumn collections. Warehouse, for example, has a selection of workaday pinstripes that are modern enough to be worn at any time of day.

If you cannot find the time or the patience to go high-street shopping, there are always mail-order catalogues. Next Directory (0345 100500) has a couple of sharply tailored pinstriped trousersuits in single or double-breasted styles, as well as a selection of matching pinstriped essentials. The La Redoute catalogue (0500 777777) has some inexpensive tapered city styles, including a sleeveless dress, tapered trousers and a tailored slimline skirt, while Freemans (0345 900100) has a pinstriped selection in its Working Wardrobe.

The best looks for the office are neither too sexy, nor too short, but smart, chic and simple. A lambswool or cashmere top, or a fitted blouse, are ideal to complement the look, with either smart, dark heels or court shoes.

Wherever you work, whether it is from home, from an office or on the road, the new pinstriped suit will be ideal: the smart choice for the modern Nineties woman.

HEATH BROWN



ABOVE: Chocolate fine-ribbed belted cardigan, £24.99, Jeffrey Rogers, The Plaza (01923 474400). Chocolate pinstriped trousers, £79.95, Planet Harrods, SW1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Kendalls, Deansgate, Manchester (0161-800 8022)



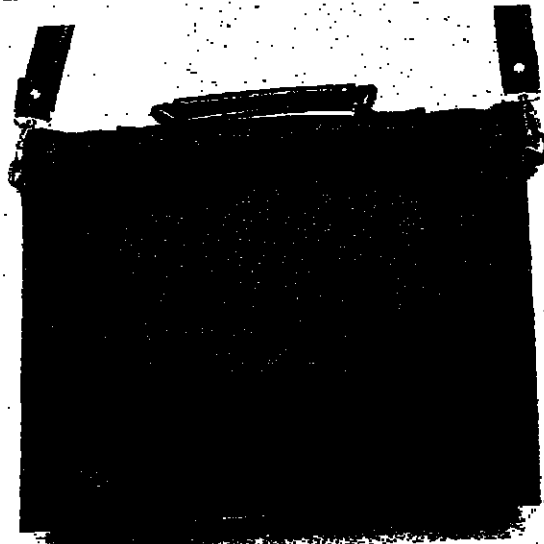
ABOVE: Cream stretch shirt, £24.99, Jeffrey Rogers, as before. Dark blue pinstriped trousers, £595 (as part of suit), Dolce & Gabbana, Harvey Nichols, SW1 (0171-235 5000). Toffee shoes, £79.99, Ravel (0171-631 0224)

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford. Styling by Amandip Uppal

ABOVE: Red cashmere wrap top, £175, N. Peal, 37 Burlington Arcade, W1 (0171-493 5378). Grey pinstriped skirt, £35, Warehouse (0171-437 7101). Mock snakeskin ankle-tie shoes, £225, Gina, 188 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

THREE OF A KIND

Every woman needs a bag to keep herself organised and nothing works better than a briefcase. Here are three of the best. H.B.



PVC briefcase with detachable shoulder strap, front pocket and pen holders, £19.99, Next (01162 849424)



LEFT: Arran Stirling leather briefcase, handmade in Somerset, £399, Mulberry (0171-491 3900)



RIGHT: PVC briefcase with cotton lining, internal pockets and concealed strap, £22.50, Bhs branches (0171-262 3289)



Toffee shirt, £24.99, Jeffrey Rogers, as before. Navy pinstriped skirt, £49, Benetton (0171-647 4200). Shoes, £44.99, Ravel, as before

HIGH INTEREST DEPOSIT

7.20%

gross p.a.* fixed

going...
going...
gone on 30.9.97

Limited savings offer. Don't miss this savings opportunity. The closing date is 30 September 1997. But we may have to withdraw it earlier if demand exceeds funds allocated.

No risk. Your money is safe. No deductions. We guarantee to return your original sum in full, plus your interest.

Choose when your interest is paid. You specify whether you want your interest paid annually or monthly.

Long-term rates on short-term deposits. Minimum deposit £2,500. Invest for two years and earn 7.20% gross p.a.* Invest for one year and earn 6.90% gross p.a.* Guaranteed.

Please apply before 30 September 1997. To request your information pack, simply call 0800 833 527 quoting reference HDT168 right away. But please don't forget, your application for this limited offer must reach us by 30 September 1997 at the very latest.

CALL FOR YOUR INFORMATION PACK TODAY
0800 833 527
(QUOTING REFERENCE HDT168)



Lloyds Bank

*Gross interest rates do not take into account deduction of income tax at the lower rate. Lloyds Bank Plc is registered in England no 2065. Registered office 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Lloyds Bank Plc is a member of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme and a signatory to the Banking Code.

Step by step to a far prettier terrace



Before: the problem stretch of terrace awaiting attention

Stephen Anderton shows how he solved a back-of-the-house problem

I sometimes think how wonderful it would be to have a long, lean-to conservatory stretching across the back of the house. And then I do a double-think. One, because it would cost from £15,000 to £40,000 depending on quality, and two, because I could not bear to invest so much in a conservatory which did not get the evening sun.

The back of the house faces east, which is a good aspect for a conservatory — not too hot, perfect for plants and for breakfast — but I would rather spend money on a summer-house facing west at the bottom of the garden. So I am left with an east-facing terrace which is about 30ft long and 9ft wide, with a lift drop on to the lawn.

What to do with it? The terrace, at one end of which is a kitchen extension, is paved with square, well-weathered concrete slabs laid in straight rows. Rectangular slabs are always so much easier to make look good but,

to make a worthwhile difference to this terrace, I would have to re-lay it, ideally in new paving, and for a morning-only terrace it really is not worth the effort or expense. So I am making the best of it.

My first move has been to take up a couple of rows of paving at the kitchen end so that I can have something growing on the terrace. *Abutilon x sunense* went in last spring, to hide the rainwater pipes in the corner, and is now 12ft tall and doing its job perfectly. It is full of *Clematis viticella* and climbing its skirts is purple *Geranium 'Anne Folkard'*, alongside *Hydrangea paniculata* and *Choisya ternata*.

Below the terrace was a mean little border — 1ft deep and 30ft long — of lavender, hybrid tea roses and pink-striped field bindweed, which was neither use nor ornament. Instead, I have dug out some lawn (and most of the bindweed) to make a border 7ft deep. I want it to have plenty of substance to act like a hedge



After: Stephen Anderton looks out on the finished job — one of incorporating a too-narrow, east-facing terrace into an attractive stepped feature

of colour under the terrace. The border runs north-south, and although the house gradually robs it of sunlight after about 1pm in summer, it is light enough for most purposes.

A bigger problem is the buffeting from southeasterly

winds which push plants forwards. Herbaceous plants can develop a lean away from the wall, so I shall try a couple of tricks to solve this. The first is to grow a few dense shrubs at the back of the border, which can be allowed, despite the narrow terrace, to bulge

backwards on to the paving and break up the exposed edge. There is the small purple *Pittosporum 'Tom Thumb'*, *Rosa 'Penelope'* and box.

The box is planted to flank a set of steps which pierces the border at its halfway point, creating a descent from the

back door, across the terrace and down again on to the lawn. Previously, there was a little step 1ft wide from terrace to lawn. But I have made new 7ft-wide steps, to make a visual plinth for the door. The flanking hedges of the broad-leaved *Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundi-

folia' will be clipped into fat, joggling sausages.

These steps have to drop only 1ft over a distance of 7ft (the depth of the border), which means they must be shallow — never the best arrangement for steps. I put in only two steps, but made a

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Trim the faded flower stalks off lavender bushes and hedges and pinch out the strongest subsequent shoots to encourage bushiness. Avoid cutting hard into old shoots, because they are reluctant to sprout again.

■ Sow winter spinach in rows 4in apart, for cropping from November to spring.

■ Plant new strawberry plants in soil well-enriched with manure or old compost.

■ Begin cutting out old wood from early flowering rambler roses, such as 'Albertine'.

■ Give liquid feed to late-flowering clematis, such as 'Jackmanii', every two weeks, and water weekly in hot weather.

third platform down at lawn level. Or, rather, 2in above it: I allowed the thickness of the paving slabs to show above the lawn, to give a clean edge from the fairly rolling grass.

Unfortunately, this garden has a sideways cross fall, with the result that my long terrace is 6in above the lawn at one end and 16in above at the other. The border planting disguises the drop in summer, but in winter it will always be visible.

Sometimes it is worth levelling up a cross fall by regrading the existing soil or importing topsoil. In my garden this would be a big job and it would be expensive to have it done. So I shall trick it out by planting large, heavy evergreens at the low end of the border and beyond to wrap around the end of the house and give the feeling of stability and weight, even if the topography wants to deny it.

I might, just might, put a wooden balustrade-rail fence at the back of the border, too, to add further weight and protect the border plants from those blustery winds.

Whatever their size, front gardens reflect their owners' personality

CLIFFORD HARPER



Putting on a bold front

Front gardens in towns and villages are remarkable things. They are everybody's little patch of oasis, and yet what goes on there needs to relate not only to the style of the house itself but to the street as well.

The wonder is that within those limits front gardens can be so different. For me, the pleasure of gardening is partly to be found in seeing how people's ideas and approaches differ.

Even the strip of poor soil between someone's house or garden wall and the pavement beyond can be startlingly varied. This hot, dry, little space can still be a source of pleasure both to gardener and passer-by. Take a look in summer at the ways in which people in one particular Essex village have dressed these unpropitious strips and you will enjoy the sheer variety of planting.

Start with that run of ancient timber houses tight on to the street, separated from each other by 6ft flint walls. The walls are strong and plain and need no adornment, although they might bear a patch or two of yellow biting stonecrop and ivy-leaved toadflax. A streak of yellow shows above, from *Rosa 'Golden Showers'* on the other side.

Then there is a grander house, four-square and with a strip of garden under its windows behind swags of painted chain. Here there are mixed, self-seeding wallflowers for spring, and for summer, against the white-plastered walls, ranks of hollyhocks and a few Madonna lilies. It is all very traditional and effortless. Barley grows among the hollyhocks, fallen from passing farm vehicles.

A simpler house of black weather-boarding has the works, but all in baskets. Window boxes and planters of petunias and pelargoniums in bright colours are swagged together with trails of ivy.

The people next door have been reading glossy magazines. Two ochre-patterned Chinese jars flank the door, sitting on a plain cobbled strip. 'White Triumphator' tulips in spring, looking wonderful for weeks on end, are followed by pale pink, trailing, ivy-leaved geraniums and nothing else. It is very chic — but nothing succeeds like simplicity.

Around a corner there is one of those houses which have grown in delicious asymmetry for hundreds of years. Its garden is the same. An aged topiary bird looks down from the garden, watched over in turn by a tall, 'modern' eucalyptus tree. Double scarlet geraniums sit cheerfully in the pavement strip, and there are bush roses behind a low retaining wall. Part of the wall is made of weathered limestone fragments and into it have been built 3in clay plant pots, tilted back at an angle and housing purple Aubreitas for spring.

Another timber-framed house follows, with unpainted plaster and a gloriously faded, gentle aspect. Between that and the pavement it has a simple strip of pink valerian (where will valerian not grow?) and there is a clipped winter-flowering *Viburnum tinus* for punctuation.

Hot and dry by the door, a rosemary and choisya grow with roots just a few crazy inches apart, in absolute and intimate embrace. Such passion has no

time for correct planting distances. In contrast, across the road is a case of rampant cottage gardening, the gable end tight to the pavement, but gloriously encrusted in *Rosa 'Albertine'* top to bottom, with clipped box flanking the door.

On the main street is a long frontage of creamy parterring and tan timbers. It has a bigger, yard-wide strip in which grow hollyhocks, casting tall, flying-saucer shadows on the plasterwork, with generous blocks of *Rosa 'Iceberg'* and a vibrant pink climbing-rose around the door.

The Big House has steps to the door and a fine white portal, and calls for no more than wisteria trained all over its dark brick facade, the grey, rope-like trunks looping backwards and forwards in dodo fashion at the foot of the wall.

Finally, there is a little wild triangle of land. It is houseless but it must belong to someone. It supports only long grass behind a modest flint wall. A few seedlings of yellow rape lodge at the wall's foot.

But struggling through the grass and nosing over the wall is an old, pink, mossy rose, smothered in the small, striped, wild pink bindweed. The two are made for each other in a wild garden.

The attraction of all these is that every effect is different. Each is a personal response to the problem of what to grow in the difficult, dry and often dusty strip beside a pavement. *Vive la difference*, I say.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

HOMES & GARDENS

COUNTAX SAVE £503 - The Best Ever Offer on Britain's Best Selling Garden Tractor

Countax tractors cut better - leaving a fine striped finish; collect better - picking up completely even in the wet and NEVER clogging. The Countax tractor is already unbeatable value, taking into account its performance, its superior specification, much greater durability and higher resale value. Now is your opportunity to make significant savings by getting important extras FREE for a limited period only.

SPECIAL OFFER

FREE Powered Collector worth	£295
FREE 3 Year Warranty worth	£125
FREE Security Clamp worth	£75
Total Saving	£503

SEND FOR SPECIAL OFFER CLAIM VOUCHER and for Countax's 36 page brochure
PHONE FREE 0500 279927

To: Countax, FREEPOST, Great Haseley, Oxford OX4 7BR

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

JUST ZAPPI!

YOUR GARAGE DOORS OPEN

FREE FITTING LIMITED OFFER

Imagine the convenience and security of being able to open your garage doors without having to get out of your car.

- Made from tough, maintenance-free aluminium
- Durable stove-enamelled finish
- Range of colours
- Automatic locking
- Tailor-made for a perfect fit
- Installed by Guardian's own craftsmen
- High Security

Guardian's roller shutter garage doors are fully automatic and are operated by a remote, hand held controller.

FOR A FREE BROCHURE RING 01484 461010/0171 581 4443

OR RETURN THE COUPON BELOW WITHOUT OBLIGATION

FREEPOST - SEND TODAY. NO STAMP REQUIRED.

Post to: GUARDIAN GARAGE DOORS, FREEPOST, HQ 10, HURLOCKFIELD, H10 3AL

MY/MS/MS

TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

GUARDIAN
The Property Protectors

LADDER STABILISER

The amazing new invention ensures your ladder

CANNOT SLIP CANNOT TOPPLE SIDEWAYS

Also eliminates ladder BOUNCE

ANKALAD takes seconds to put into position and provides the

SAFEST WAY

to work from a ladder

Fits all ladders

Full details in free brochure from

ANKALAD
20 New Road
Gravesend, Kent
DA11 0AA
Phone 01474 537237

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS TAKE SHAPE WITH Agriframes

SALE NOW ON!

PERGOLAS, BOWERS, GAZEBOS & WALKWAYS

SEND NOW FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF BRITAIN'S BIGGEST GARDENING CATALOGUE

Featuring Agriframes structures plus hundreds of the very best gardening products and ideas.

To: Agriframes Ltd., Brochure 498, Charwood Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 2HG.

Name _____

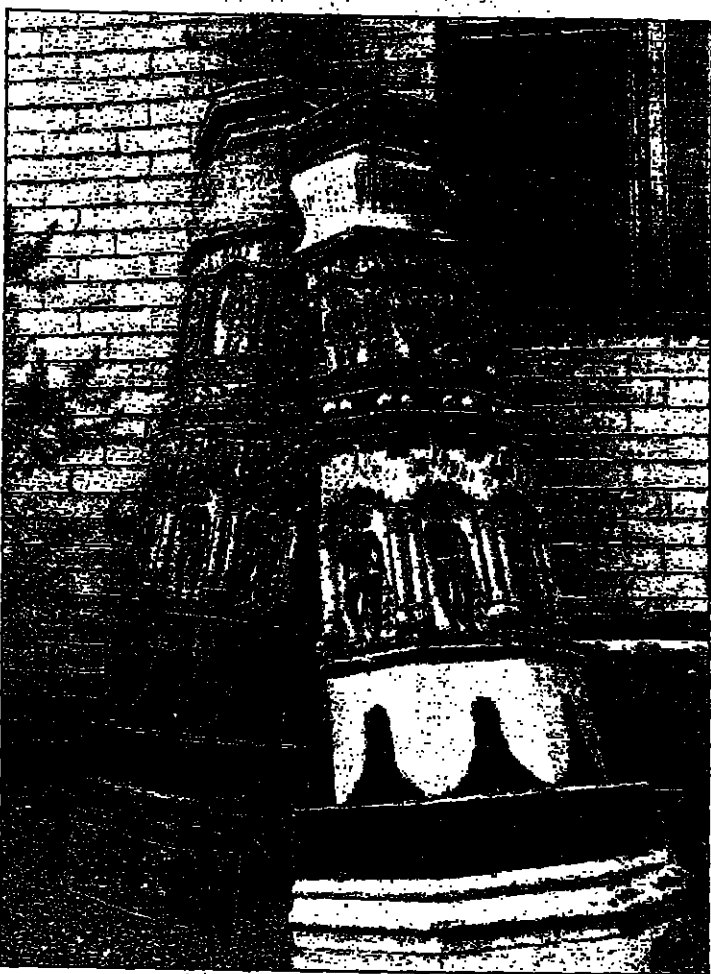
Address _____

Postcode _____

Please tick now if you do not wish to receive other mail from selected companies ☐

FREE CATALOGUE ☎ 01342 310000 (24hrs) FAX: 01342 310099

Jane Owen visits one of fashion's original eccentrics, creating an aerial garden near Tower Bridge



Pillars of society: Indian-style ornaments give an exotic flavour

Moving tale of a designer in bloom

ME AND MY GARDEN: ZANDRA RHODES

Zandra Rhodes, whose frocks sell for about £6,000 apiece, is resplendent from head to toe in one of her colourful designs, complete with bat wings, in her aerial garden.

An east wind is whipping round her extensive terrace, on the top floor of a 1960s warehouse near Tower Bridge, London. She has a mobile garden — all of it planted in huge terracotta pots. When she moved here, last September, her



A mobile garden: Zandra Rhodes has lovingly nurtured her plants in huge terracotta pots which make a striking display on the terrace of her home near Tower Bridge

council estate opposite. Rhodes had lived for 25 years in a tall house in Notting Hill, in west London. There, when she wasn't whirling the world's catwalks, she taught herself to garden against all the odds. Her garden received no sunlight, had no soil and suffered from damp, but she created a fecund retreat of ivy and ferns with a herb and rose terrace at second-floor level. Her horticultural knowledge comes from *Gardener's*

Question Time tapes which she takes travelling. Rhodes is transforming the warehouse into the Zandra Rhodes Museum of Fashion and Textiles where thousands of modern frocks and fabrics will be on show to the public, but she has found time to sketch plans for the terrace garden. She hopes to build a 10ft brick wall to protect the plants and give privacy, and the John Aspinall pillars will make a colonnade interspersed with pots.

The floor will probably be of gravel. The door to the terrace has fierce messages about keeping the pots watered and replacing the bubble-wrap insulation when it blows away. Like many gardeners, she worries whether her plants will be watered enough in her absence. Rhodes intends to plant a Kiftgate, the overwhelming creamy-white rose which originated in the Gloucestershire garden of that name, which will

grow up the front of the stark building. That may be joined by an *Actinidia kolomikta*, the vine whose leaves develop startling pink and white tips as they mature. She hopes to extend the garden into the museum with small indoor Japanese-style beds lit from above by skylights — plant wells, as Zandra calls them. Around the walls glazed arrow slits will provide light for more plants. The decor inside is predictably Zandra

Rhodes: vivid reds and dazzling golds, calshing with pinks and orange, and great swags of gorgeous fabrics. On a wall, in the midst of all this excellent bad taste, is an exquisite botanical watercolour of a stinging nettle in flower. The style is Dürer, the artist a young student called Zandra Rhodes. Her interest in plants has been with her since art school, a startling foil to her exoticism.

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

HOMES & GARDENS

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 481 1920
FAX: 0171 481 9313

SCATTER
Clears Cats
from your garden
NIGHT AND DAY, EVERY DAY

Scatter transmits random bursts of ultrasound at a frequency that cats avoid. They'll turn away long before they expose themselves to its full impact, so that it works where fences or netting fail. Fully automatic — no sensors to go wrong. Highly reliable, fully weatherproofed miniature computer circuit.

Unique programme of computer-controlled ultrasound expels cats from lawns, flower beds, shrubberies, walls and patios.

SWITCH between low-voltage mains or battery operation at will. NO effect on birds or other pets. **INVALUABLE** for terraces. Scatter is completely safe. Installed to suit.

Try it for 90 days — 5 year guarantee

FREEPHONE 0800 282824
FOR FREE BROCHURE

Scatter, Old Lion Court, High St, Marlborough, Wilt SN8 1HQ 01672 511130 Fax 01672 511571
TRADE AND OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed.

TAKE THE DIRECT ROUTE TO QUALITY

CANNOCK GATES
AT FACTORY PRICES

Order direct from the UK's leading gate manufacturer's catalogue

Wrought Iron Gates from only £20.00

CALL NOW ON
01543 462500
FAX **01543 506237**

Quoting Dept. TT3497, for your FREE Cancock Gates guide. Our phone lines are open 24 hours a day, or write to: Cancock Gates Ltd., (Dept. TT3497), Martindale, Hawks Green, Cannock, Staffs., WS11 2XT.

The Gateway to Great Garden Ideas

CRAFTSMAN BUILT: DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY

The finest timber superbly crafted. Double glazed. The friendliest help and service.

Write or phone for free Handbook
ORIGINAL BOX SASH WINDOW CO (Dep. CJ)
FREEPOST 28,
Unit 10, Bridgewater Way, Windsor, Berks SL4 1BR.

FRUIT PRESSES AND CRUSHERS

Three models and specialist fruit press parts. See page 10.

World's largest range of traditional quality wooden presses for sale. See page 10.

Visit: www.fruitpress.co.uk
Tel: 01292 815757
Fax: 01292 815162

Scalewatcher
The Simple Solution to Hard Water

Scalewatcher is a revolutionary new product that prevents hard water scale from building up on your pipes, boilers, radiators, and other household appliances. It's easy to use and works in minutes.

Post Systems Ltd., FREEPOST (R0200)
Hamley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1ZZ

Scalewatcher is completely safe. Installed to suit.

Try it for 90 days — 5 year guarantee

FREEPHONE 0800 282824
FOR FREE BROCHURE

Scalewatcher, Old Lion Court, High St, Marlborough, Wilt SN8 1HQ 01672 511130 Fax 01672 511571
TRADE AND OVERSEAS enquiries welcomed.

"Find out about a Stannah Stairlift before the stairs become a problem."

RAYMOND BAXTER

"Even if the stairs are only a minor nuisance at the moment, find out about a Stannah and you'll be ready to stop the struggle before it starts."

- No need to worry about moving home.
- Effortless access to bathroom and bedrooms.
- No problem if your stairs are curved.
- We are on-call 24-hours a day.
- The reassurance of buying the world's favourite stairlift.

CALL FOR FREE ADVICE
0800 715 422

Or write to Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 667, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

Stannah
Stairlifts

The world's most chosen stairlift

ROLL-UP AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOORS

WHETHER YOU HAVE A LARGE DOUBLE GARAGE, A SINGLE DOOR, OR EVEN MORE, MATTORWIDE FIT THE BILL.

- Drive straight into your garage avoiding all weather hazards.
- Roller made for each property and fully operational from your car.
- Door transmitted across the door, should the beam be broken the door will STOP.
- EXCLUSIVE to Mattorwides. All installations come with battery back-up system in case of power failure.

01929 554901

John Stalker
"I wouldn't recommend anyone else"

Please send me your full colour brochure on Automatic Garage Doors and security blinds.

Name: _____
Telephone No: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Nationwide Security Blinds, Freeport, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4BR

NO STAMP REQUIRED

The Button That Could Save Your Life

Wear the Aid-Call button and, if you should have an accident, press it to summon immediate assistance. It could be YOUR life saver.

AGE
FREEPHONE
0800 772266

Awnings, Canopies & Conservatory Blinds

CALL US NOW
0145 024980

FOR HELPFUL FRIENDLY SERVICE AND ADVICE

widest range of styles available

INTEREST-FREE OPTION AVAILABLE

written details upon request

on a wide range of Awnings, Canopies, Free-standing units and Planters, Pergolas, Vertical and Horizontal Conservatory Blinds.

Thorn & Country Awnings
116-120 WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME14 1RU

WARWICK BUILDINGS

- STUDIOS
- SUMMERHOUSES
- WORKROOMS
- GARAGES
- STABLING

(Please specify which brochure)

SHOW SITE - SOUTHAM ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON, NR RUGBY

WATKINSHIRE CV21 9JL
TEL: 01926 815757
FAX: 01926 815162

The UK PLASTIC SHEET CENTRE

Plastics for every project! around your home and garden

- Double Glazing rigid plastic panes
- Horticultural Acrylics, PVC & Polythene
- Security Polycarbonates & DIY Shutters
- Sun Shade / Safety films & Solar Blinds
- Conservatory Twin/Triplewall polycarbonates
- Flat Roofing EPDM Rubber - made to measure!

UK WIDE MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE OUT NOW!

Send now for our NEW 97/98 32 page COLOUR CATALOGUE covering all types of PLASTIC SHEET for: REPAIR • PROTECTION • REPLACEMENT • SHADING & MORE!

Please enclose 2 x 1st class stamps

To: DIY Plastics (UK) Ltd., Dept TM2, Regal Way, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7XJ.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q My three-year-old 'Prinz Handjery' sycamore made its green-and-plum leaves as usual in spring but now they are going brown and falling. There are still some sound buds on the tree. What is the problem? — C. Sarson, Rugby, Warwickshire.

A Young sycamores, especially the fancy ones such as the purplish *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Prinz Handjery' and the peachy 'Brilliantissimum' which get planted in warm, sheltered places, can suffer so much from aphids that the leaves are sucked dry and fall prematurely. After three years, neither drought nor the wet June could cause this problem. Had the leaves died but remained on the tree, it would be much more of a worry: that would mean the tree itself was dead. I expect your tree will recover next year, even if it does not regain a full canopy this year. Look for aphids, especially beneath the leaves.

Q I have a 15-year-old prostrate *Juniperus communis* 'Repanda', which is 10ft across and impeding the driveway. Could I take a foot off all round? It is beginning to get a bit lumpy in the middle, which I presume is because of its age. — Miss B.R. Masters, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

A All junipers start to get rather lumpy and craggy in middle age. Hard pruning sometimes produces new shoots from old wood, or from the base, but it is unpredictable and the plant will never regain the trimness of youth. If you need to take only 1ft off, do it by nibbling back some of the branches; take some branches back by a couple of feet (if you can do it invisibly) so that light is admitted and the plant

thickens its growth further back. Do it now. Next year you could take off the bits you left snicking out this year. After that, do a little frequently, two or three times a year, so that hard pruning is unnecessary.

Q After numerous attempts we have at last got the Scottish flame flower, *Tropaeolum speciosum*, to establish itself in our garden from pieces of rhizome. In its second year it has reached 5ft into a hedge of honeysuckle and Clematis. But instead of being scarlet the flowers are a drab yellow. Why? — B. Clarke, Oxford.

A I cannot help thinking that this is a case of mistaken identity. There is no yellow form of this glorious climber, but there are yellow or yellowish species of *tropaeolum* (nasturtium) which are perennial. I have sometimes seen the climber *Eccremocarpus* taken for Scottish flame flower, and it does indeed have a drab, orange-yellow form, which is popular at the moment. But this, of course, has tendrils at the ends of its leaves, like a pea, whereas the *tropaeolum* just winds itself around things. The flame flower has a much more succulent, running root, like bindweed, and is hard to mistake, except with bindweed or alstroemeria. If you really have the right plant, and it continues to be yellow, then either it is sick or it is something very special. Usually, when the plant is lime-sick, it does not grow at all, so I do not see the yellowing of your plant being caused by lime.

Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. We regret that any enclosures cannot be returned.



Fay Armitage, a volunteer gardener, gave up her job as wardrobe mistress at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, for less stressful work in the grounds of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton

National labours of love

Some of our best-known gardens are maintained by an army of volunteers whose only reward is to watch them bloom. Barbara Abbs reports

Some visitors to gardens open to the public occasionally get agitated when they see elderly gardeners with walking sticks trying to weed a steep rock bank, or a child patiently bedding out plants. They should look again. These are not the Dickensian working practices of Scrooge-like garden owners, but a rapidly growing phenomenon: the volunteer gardener.

A passion for gardening seems to be inherent in some of us, and for the genetically predisposed who haven't yet acquired a garden, or have loved and lost one, volunteering fills a great need. The

opportunities are nationwide. Among those which use volunteer labour are: Heligan Gardens in Cornwall; the Royal Horticultural Society garden at Rosemoor in Devon; the Plantation Garden in Norwich, the Lakeland Horticultural Society's garden at Holeslurd in Cumbria; Ness Botanic Gardens, near Liverpool; the Petersfield Physic and West Dean gardens, Hampshire; the Royal Pavilion garden in Brighton, East Sussex; and many National

Trust gardens are among those properties. The unpaid enthusiasts can be the entire work force in gardens managed by non-commercial trusts; in others, they may do preliminary clearance and restoration, and in some, they just ice the garden cake.

The Lakeland Horticultural Society's five-acre garden, near Windermere, was the first garden to use volunteers. One person is responsible for the layout and maintenance of each flower bed. A certain amount of friendly rivalry ensures high standards: no one wants their particular plot to be singled out as the one with the weeds in it. Large works, such as the removal of a tree, have to be agreed by the gardens committee, otherwise each gardener has a considerable amount of freedom in what to plant.

The Petersfield Physic Garden has a similar structure, except that planting is restricted: only 17th-century plants are used.

In gardens which already have professional staff, tasks tend to be more circumscribed. At Brighton, volunteers are given a list of tasks for the day and an explanation of how to do them. Jobs include weeding, hoeing, pruning, pinching out, harvesting and pot scrubbing. This may sound dull to non-gardeners, but it is the stuff of life to many: the opportunity to work in the open, in beautiful surroundings and in congenial company more than makes up for the occasional stint scouring flowerpots. Volunteers can be any age, male or female, with any back-

ground or ability, although frequently they come from the ranks of the young retired. In the town-centre Plantation Garden at Norwich, again managed entirely by volunteers, the gardeners are aged from 13 to 72. Several of them live in the nearby flats. The tasks offer the opportunity to do building work and even archaeological excavation, under expert supervision in this Victorian garden on the site of a medieval chalk and flint quarry. Back in Brighton, Catherine Phillips, a New

Zealand who had had experience of community horticulture while living in the United States, thought there might be an opportunity for her to get involved with the newly restored gardens of the Royal Pavilion. She approached the Pavilion staff and soon found herself co-ordinating a team of volunteers. This is the fourth summer that the pavilion volunteers have been planting and maintaining the Regency garden around the building.

Virginia Hine, of East Sussex County Council, an expert on garden plants of the Reg-

ency period, had drawn up a planting plan. Ms Phillips, as co-ordinator, at first directed the planting, but now most of the garden is run as a democracy and little direction is necessary.

Numbers attending the regular Friday-morning sessions vary from five to 15. Several members had never done any gardening before, while others were experienced amateur gardeners used to pruning and propagating.

One of the newest volunteers, Fay Armitage, moved

most of the other members of the group have enrolled on taking professional gardening courses and need practical experience. A stint as a volunteer in a public garden looks good on a CV and provides some alternative referees when applying for paid posts.

For most volunteers, however, gardening all day for money might turn one of their greatest pleasures into a chore. It is not a risk they want to take. Some of the volunteers enjoy the social experience, will work in small groups, and chat as they prune, plant out or weed. Others choose to work alone, involving themselves only with the plants.

Several well-used paths cross the Royal Pavilion grounds and passers-by take an interest in what goes on there. Volunteers are often engaged in conversation. When the garden changed from the municipal-mantled lawns and bright bedding plants to the present layout of mixed shrub and flower beds around 'glades' of longish grass, they were frequently called on to defend the alterations. After four years, the gardens have matured, and comments are invariably complimentary.

The experiment at the pavilion has worked so well that Brighton now has another group of volunteers at Preston Park, which has just received a big lottery award for restoration work.

Volunteers with a week or so to spare, and who would like to do more vigorous work than the planting and maintenance of established gardens should contact the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which organises pond and scrub clearance, path-laying and other projects, sometimes in historic gardens, such as Heligan but often in other public spaces.

VOLUNTEERS DIRECTORY

- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, 01491 839766.
- Heligan Gardens, Cornwall, 01726 844157. RHS Rosemoor Gardens, Devon 01805 624067. Plantation Garden, Norwich, 01603 611669. Lakeland Horticultural Society, 015394 46008. Ness Botanic Gardens, Wirral, Cheshire, 0151 353 0123. Petersfield Physic Garden (Hampshire Garden Trust), 01794 367752. West Dean Garden, Hampshire, 01243 818210. Royal Pavilion and Preston Park, Brighton, 01273 472410.
- National Trust Volunteer Office, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, 01285 657935, or contact your regional office (see telephone directory). National Trust for Scotland, 0131-226 5922.

Zealand who had had experience of community horticulture while living in the United States, thought there might be an opportunity for her to get involved with the newly restored gardens of the Royal Pavilion. She approached the Pavilion staff and soon found herself co-ordinating a team of volunteers. This is the fourth summer that the pavilion volunteers have been planting and maintaining the Regency garden around the building.

Virginia Hine, of East Sussex County Council, an expert on garden plants of the Reg-

ency period, had drawn up a planting plan. Ms Phillips, as co-ordinator, at first directed the planting, but now most of the garden is run as a democracy and little direction is necessary.

Numbers attending the regular Friday-morning sessions vary from five to 15. Several members had never done any gardening before, while others were experienced amateur gardeners used to pruning and propagating.

One of the newest volunteers, Fay Armitage, moved

Plants with a Victorian kiss

■ Ascott, Wing, Buckinghamshire 01296 685242.

Two miles southwest of Leighton Buzzard, off A418. Open tomorrow for National Garden Scheme. Wednesday afternoons and the last Sunday in August. Tues-Sun in Sept; all 2-6 pm (last entrance 5pm). £4. children £2.

High Victorian style and standards of presentation are retained at Ascott, perhaps the most intriguing of the group of Rothschild family houses and gardens that stand close to one another in the Chilterns. Today the Rothschild family and the National Trust look after Ascott.

It is easy to forget that you are in the Home Counties as you look out over the Vale of Aylesbury. In recent years, ambitious new designs by Arabella Lennox-Boyd have complemented the garden's memorable 19th-century features, such as the green and golden yew topiary (especially the sundial, the fountains and statue groups by the American sculptor Ralph Waldo Story), and the combination of terraced lawns and now mature specimen trees. The double herbaceous border, displaying faultless symmetry, is at its peak and a walk lined by beech hedges leads to the lily pool.

Although the 30 acres are instantly recognised as Victorian, there is so much variety that, whatever your interest, there will be something to absorb you.

GARDENS TO VISIT



Outstanding borders at Pitinies

■ House of Pitinies, Guthrie by Forfar, Scotland 01241 828245.

Seven miles east of Forfar, via A932. Open daily until Oct 31, 10am-5 pm. £2.

To one side of the 18th-century house walled gardens contain a series of outstandingly planned borders: a double herbaceous border extending away from the house planted in shades of yellow, blue, cream and white; quantities of old-

fashioned roses and a spectacular show of delphiniums. In one place the borders are backed by hedges of clipped purple plum; elsewhere it is yew. Whatever you look, there's something new to admire: the white-painted gateway at the end of one vista or the short avenue of clipped, barked *Prunus serrula*. The garden's atmosphere can only be fully appreciated when you have taken in the tranquil contrast of the riverside walk, shaded by mature oak and beech, which leads past a dovecote and a Gothic wash-house.

■ Brockhole, Lake District National Park Centre, Windermere, Cumbria 015394 46601.

Near Ben Windermere and Ambleside on A591. Open daily to Nov 2. 10am-5pm. Car parking £2.50-£3.50.

The garden's first quality is natural: the outlook west over Windermere to the fells. Its design, by Thomas Mawson, is dominated by a series of formal terraces and its strongly architectural structure is clothed in an absorbing array of plants. The sloping site ensures that frost drains away. Consequently, there are a number of tender plants, such as the weeping tree *Cupressus palmmeriana*, and flowering shrubs that originate from New Zealand. Below the terraces is a meadow dotted in summer with wild flowers.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

The taxman
takes a
bite when you
earn it.

The taxman
takes a
bite when you
spend it.

Do you really want
him to take a bite when
you save it?

It's your lolly, so why let the taxman take a
crunching 20% bite from the interest when
you're saving it?

Just send off for our free, easy to digest
money guide. It shows you different ways to
stop the taxman getting his nasty gnashers into
your savings. It's also a straightforward guide to
making the most of your money. For your copy

or to arrange an appointment with
a Savings and Investment Adviser,
simply send off the coupon or
call free on 0500 758 400.

Call TSB PhoneBank now for your
free guide quoting TM16/8
0500 758 400

*All references to taxation are based on our understanding of current tax law and Inland Revenue practice as at 1st July 1997. The law relating to taxation is always liable to change in the future and such changes cannot be foreseen. The level of tax applicable will depend upon the individual investor's personal circumstances. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc are representatives of the TSB Money Group, which is regulated by the Financial Investments Authority only for TSB plc services, pensions, unit trusts and offshore investments. Advice or recommendations relate only to investments of the TSB Money Group. TSB Bank plc. Registered Office: 30 September 1997. Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. From 1 October 1997: 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1080268. TSB Bank Scotland plc. Registered Office: Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number 90207.

Tax-Free Savings

Yes, I would like to receive my free TSB Money Guide. Send to: TSB Money Guide Offer, FREEPOST SCE 4272, Sandison SN18 9HW.

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

First Name:

Telephone Number:

Address:

Postcode:

Are you a TSB customer? Yes ☐ No ☐

We'd like to contact you from time to time with details about services from TSB and other TSB group companies if we think they'd interest you. However, if you'd prefer not to be told about these services, please tick this box ☐.

To ensure security for our customers and staff and to help maintain service quality, some calls may be recorded and monitored. TSB PhoneBank may call you to check you have received your guide, and if you have any questions, arrange a time for you to see one of our Savings & Investment Advisers who will make sense of your savings and help protect your future with TSB.

'If I could work out what purpose was served by wasps I would not grumble, but I cannot think of one, nor have I ever read of one'

Twice within the past week my hand has been grasped enthusiastically as I have been led down garden paths to be shown what I was assured was a miracle of nature. These brief expeditions to the shadier recesses of orchards and sheds were conducted in hushed tones; voices were dropped, as when Attenborough whispers among gorillas. I was being taken to see nature at her most miraculous, God's creation in all its glory. They said:

So why did it leave me cold? Why did I find myself curbing my impatient urge to say, "Oh, come on... just spray it with something. Put it to the torch. Nuke it. Anything!"

The problem is the inmates of the miracle wasps. I have no time for wasps and they have never shown anything other than dislike for me. So when I am shown the home where they breed, and from which they launch offensives, I cannot bring myself to marvel at the sight of it.

This is prejudice. Had it been the handiwork of any other species, I would have stood there with jaw dropping at the

Time to fight the buzzing nuisance

intricate beauty of its construction. A wasp's nest is the size of a football — at least, these were — built apparently of fine tissue which looks so delicate that a breeze might send it tumbling across the lawn.

This, presumably, was why one of the nests had been cunningly balanced between a pear tree and the garden wall. The other nest was high in rafters away from draughts.

I was told that the nests were woven from fine crumbs of wood, collected by the wasps as they perched on trees, doors and window frames, masticated till they reached the texture of wet paper mache and then crafted into an intricate and delicate maze which became their home. I could not care less. Even if wasps were awarded the contract to construct the Millennium Dome, I would refuse to be impressed.

Try this game for yourself. Draw two

columns on a sheet of paper headed "For" and "Against". Now think of wasps and start filling in the columns. If anyone makes a sensible entry in the "For" column, I think they should be locked in a roomful of wasps until they have learnt their lesson. Yet, curiously, despite the nuisance value of these creatures, country wisdom has never been directed towards their control or extermination.

Ferrets have been schooled to deal with rabbits, terriers will take on rats, but what do we have in our rural armoury to halt the wasp in its evil tracks? A jar of

jam with the lid left off, half-filled with water. Does it work? No. This incompetent wasp trap is without doubt one of the most depressing sights of summer.

For the jar to be effective at keeping wasps from public places, such as kitchens and garden seats, it has to be situated near these sites. This attracts even more wasps, and we are afforded a depressing view of a seething mass of striped vermin greedily going for the last traces of the jam, and falling bloated into the water to join their dead or dying companions.

Worse, some of the wasps do not

drown. Instead, they gather enough jam to fortify themselves for a further assault on nearby humans before the final kamikaze dive into the watery grave. By then, you have probably been stung, a child's tea ruined, a bottle of wine spilt in a failed attempt at swatting and tempers forced closer to breaking point.

If there were a purpose to wasps I would not grumble, but I cannot think of one, nor have I ever read of one. Be assured I am not in any way phobic about buzzing creatures: I happily endure visits from any foraging honey bee, because I know he is going about a useful purpose.

But wasps exist only to satisfy their greed and to irritate people.

I dare you to disagree. Even if you escape a stinging, they have other ways to get you. I have a tree laden with ripening Victoria plums. Wasps wait until the day before the plums are ready

to be picked, then take one suck and leave the rest to rot. They got them all last year. Flies, of course, come a close second to wasps as the most pointless species of all time, and if we consider flora as well, I would be pleased to hear what purpose the stinging nettle serves. What is it trying to protect by its sting? If so, why does the sting not bother its likeliest destroyers: cattle, sheep and horses? Who says nature knows best?

Accordingly, I have no conscience whatsoever about inviting ideas on how — without chemicals — wasps can be controlled, or at least given a bad time.

I have had enough of their bullying ways and it is time to stand and fight. I would love to redress the balance of fear and discomfort. All suggestions are welcome and evidence of their effectiveness would be appreciated.

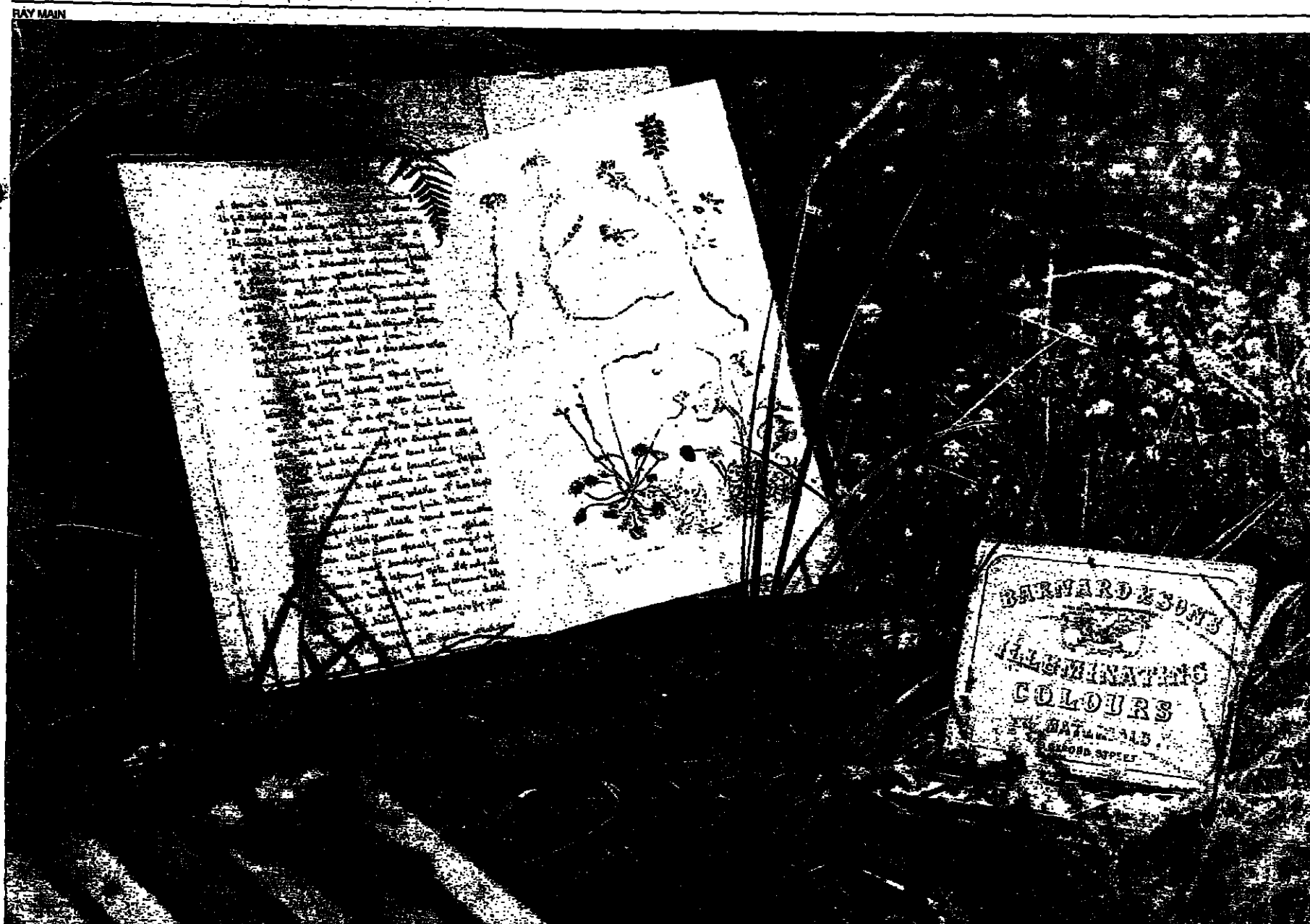
Remembering the furor over a rat-killing debate, I once started in these pages, I think we should rule out sadism. In fact, if there is anyone who loves wasps and wants to conserve them, I would be pleased to hear from them. But I am not holding my breath.

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

Readers' letters and queries on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.



Miss Hitchman's illustrated work reflecting the beauty of a wooded bog stands the test of time. The area will not be affected by the controversial Newbury bypass

The lady of Newbury bog

Not much has changed on a Berkshire common since a young woman lovingly detailed its flora and fauna in her diary

In August 1915, while British soldiers were struggling to secure a foothold on the shores of the Dardanelles, a young woman visited a bog near Newbury, Berkshire. Her name was Marion Hitchman, she was 20, and she was doing a teachers' training course at Whitehall College in the King's Road, Chelsea. Her home was in Newbury, where her father was a well known builder, and she went to Snelmore Common, four miles north of the town, as part of a holiday assignment for the college.

She explored the bog there in the morning, the afternoon and the evening, and wrote a vivid account of the flowers, insects and other wildlife there. She illustrated it with beautiful drawings, some in ink and watercolour, some in pencil, and bound it all in stiff brown boards. She called her work *Bogging*.

It is still in perfect condition. "Bogging," Marion begins, on the lined paper, "is most enjoyable work, especially in summertime. The bog is 'in a slight dip or valley between a gorse-covered hill and sharply rising heathland. From either ridge small streamlets trickle into a brook with splashing waterfalls at the lower end of the bog. The brook has cut a six-foot 'gorge' in the gravelly soil; it runs along the bottom of this into a well-wooded basin-shaped glen. There are several very marshy parts in the bog from which turf and moss have been cut."

In Marion's fine, simple prose, it seems like a lost pastoral vision — and her delight in it bursts out at the foot of the first page: "The first expedition in the morning was a brilliant success as far as my enjoyment was concerned. The sun was rather hot and glaring, but this helped to show up the bog treasures and encouraged insects and plants to come out. The air was sweet and fresh after much rain."

The flowers bring out her best writing. "The cross-leaved heath grows in the heart of the bog. Its

leaves are pale sage green and hairy. The flowers of this species grow in terminal heads of drooping rose-coloured flowers, which all turn to one side. The whole flower appears as if modelled in wax... On that sunny morning, apart from the heather, the bog asphodel was the crowning beauty of the valley, for its golden brown fruits in tall spikes gave a glow to the bog which was missing in the evening. It is elegant and extremely pretty whether it has bright yellow flowers or golden brown fruits. Not only the small heath butterfly and the tiny common blue one seemed to love resting on the asphodel, but a small brilliant blue dragonfly flew swiftly over and around it."

I visited the common one morning this month. It is now designated as a "country park", but it still has some large, lonely stretches of oak, and some wild heathland with nightjars nesting on it. The map shows two boggy areas on the south side of the common, which are not far from the route of the controversial Newbury bypass (some of the protesters are still there). The larger bog seemed most likely to be the one

that Marion had surveyed, and from the car park I walked down a path through the oaks towards it. The wood soon gave way to bracken-covered hillside and the path became damper.

Then, on my right, I saw the bog. It was unmistakable. Small birch trees covered both sides of the valley above the bracken, but at the foot of the valley there was the pink sphagnum moss, the lilac heather and — most thrilling sight of all — the golden and yellow bog asphodel, dotted everywhere.

Clearly, the bog was drier than it had been in Marion's time. There were young birch trees in the centre of the bog, with the moss and the water plants winding between them in the stream, which was now



Marion Hitchman: assignment

just a seeping, invisible flow of water underfoot. Invisible, that is, until I stood too long in one place, and sank. I got several bootfuls of water that way. Perhaps in Marion's time the bog was deliberately kept clear and wet, for the sake of the turf and moss that were cut from it. Further down the valley, I identified the deep gorge where the brook finally appeared and the glen beyond it. A house now stands at the far end.



It was among the flowers in the marshy part of the bog that I felt most strongly the sense of wonder at walking among the scenes Marion had known. Not all the flowers she described were there — I looked for housewort, milkwort, and sundew in vain (though I was told that the fly-catching sundew leaves are to be found there). But a little yellow flower climbed everywhere over the grass and cross-leaved heath — and there it was in her pages: "Another yellow flower found all over the bog was creeping tormentil. It can be distinguished from creeping cinquefoil because its leaves are sessile."

This is the botanical term for stalkless — and sure enough, that is what these leaves were. There were also fluffy cotton grass and soft rush, both of which she describes, and though I did not see any spotted orchids, I found a marsh orchid languishing among some tall, wet grass. But the bog asphodels, many of which still had their delicate yellow petals, were still the heart of the scene. Marion does not mention birds very much, but she heard a woodpecker tapping in a beech tree near

the bog, and on her evening visit talks of the lark and peewit "following the rest of the creatures to rest". I did not hear the lark or peewit, but I saw a green woodpecker fly over, while a willow warbler was singing in the birches and a yellowhammer on the heath.

Marion handed in her report to her college and a note marks it "A", adding "Good work. Illustrations Ex" (which I take to mean "excellent"). She qualified as a teacher on August 1, 1916, and spent her career in infants' schools.

I have a roll of yellowing letters of recommendation. "She has a most delightful manner in dealing with children, is most patient, thorough, and has a never-failing sense of humour," wrote the headmistress

of Highgate School in 1928. In 1937, the vicar of St George's, Horsey, wrote: "She has a personality and charm of manner which give her complete control of her class and very obviously attract the children to her. She is a born teacher." What a joy to read of such teaching!

In spite of this evident ease with children, Marion never married. Neither did her sister, Isabel, and they lived together in London for many years. Perhaps the men they might have married died in the Dardanelles or on the Western Front.

When she retired, Marion returned to Newbury. She died, five years ago, at the age of 97. Her *Bogging* study and the other correspondence were found in her cottage after her death by her step-nephew, Frank Hitchman, now the finance director of a large insurance broking firm (Marion's father married again after her mother died, and she had a stepbrother and stepniece). The stepbrother, who was Frank's father, became deputy head of the Atomic Energy Authority and retired as Sir Alan Hitchman. Marion does not seem to have done any more drawing or painting, although late in life she is reported to have said: "I would have gone to art school if there had been enough money."

The family connection with Newbury also appears to have faded. The building firm Hitchman (Newbury) Ltd survives, but is no longer owned by any of the family.

By a miracle, as it might seem, the bog is still there, 80 years after Marion wrote about it. In a year or two, the roar of traffic on the bypass will be audible from it, but I see no reason why it should change in other ways. There might be a case for the local authority to cut back the trees and restore it further.

Some of Marion's pupils will remember her. Otherwise, I think the yellow bog asphodels of Snelmore Common must be her memorial.

DERWENT MAY

Something to crow about

FEATHER REPORT

IF ONE talks of a "crow" in England and Wales, one generally means a carrion crow, that glossy black marauder and scavenger that is now so abundant in towns as well as in the countryside (writes Derwent May). In north-west Scotland and Ireland, however, the crows are of a different race. They are hooded crows, which have grey bodies, black wings and tail, and what looks exactly like a black hood over their head.

Carrion crows are found all over France, but when you get to the Alps, hooded crows appear again, and I was watching them last week on the mountainsides above Lake Como in northern Italy. They were much more sinister-looking than carrion crows. They spend a lot of time up on the high crags, but also come down to the lakeside to feed on the shore, and they like to perch on the very tip of the tall, thin cypress trees in the gardens of the villas. When they sit up there, swaying to and fro, their hoods gave them the appearance of executioners eagerly waiting for their victims.

Up on the crags, the hooded crows eyed some other birds flitting around them — the crag martins. These are little brown martins, quite closely related to our house martins, but found only as rare vagrants in northern Europe. The crows would no doubt have liked to get at the martins' nests, but it would have been very difficult for them. There was a deep hollow in the cliff and through field glasses I could make out the martins' mud nests, like half-cups, hanging under its shady roof. There was nowhere a crow could perch — and the "hoodies" must have contented themselves with catching lizards on the slopes.

They cawed and made rolling, clicking sounds like the crows of England. One or two ornithologists have claimed that they can recognise subtle differences in the voices of the two forms, but other ornithologists have poured scorn on this claim. Their cries seemed identical to me. They live in identical lives in the Italian sunshine, often flying out and chasing each other, tumbling and dodging to one side in the air in a playful way.

Why are there these two races of crow? They are closely related to interbreed where the two populations meet, and indeed there is a narrow hybrid zone running across Scotland. So they are regarded as a single species. But they remain distinct populations. The Scottish and Irish birds are quite

cut off from the other vast area occupied by hooded crows, which runs from southern Europe up into east Asia.

It is now thought that they were originally a single form, which was divided into two populations in the Ice Age and developed their differences while they were apart. They met again when the ice melted. The real mystery is why the hybrids on the boundaries do not thrive. You would have expected that by now there would have been such interbreeding between them that the two races would have totally merged again.

Still, it is to our advantage. The greater the variety in the bird world, the more delightful and intriguing it is.

● What's about: Birders — a lesser sand plover at Pagham Harbour, West Sussex; aquatic warblers around The Fleet, Dorset; Cops's shorebirds at Parthway, Cornwall. Twitters — look out for flocks of swallows and house martins gathering to migrate south. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate. 50p at all other times.

PETER BROWN



A hooded crow looks sinister

ON THE SPOT: MARTINDALE, CUMBRIA

Rural recommendations

The place: Martindale Old Church, Martindale, Cumbria.

The view: the tiny church is sheltered by fells. To the north is majestic Hallin Fell and to the south, the more sprawling Bada Fell.

Afficionados: a lone farmer and his family — this place is remote.

Historical interest: the church is home to a 700-year-old yew tree from which the bowmen of Martindale replenished their arrows.

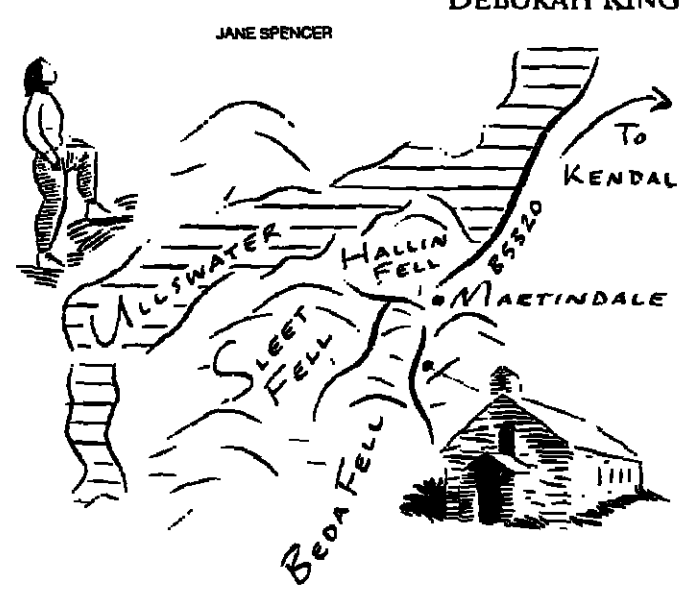
Time to visit: in late afternoon you should have the place to yourself.

How to get there: A6 from Kendal, BS320 towards Pooley Bridge, turn left towards Martindale valley with Ullswater on your right.

OS reference: Sheet 90, Grid Ref: 185/434

Also nearby: Winter Crag farmhouse offers bed and breakfast and there are glorious walks in the area.

DEBORAH KING



HOMESWAP

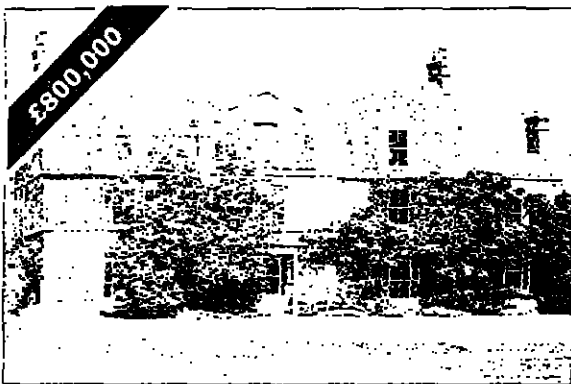
What the same money will buy around the country



For £800,000 you could buy a long lease (more than 90 years) on this three-bedroom, two-bathroom maisonette, with a terrace, on the sixth and seventh floors of a modern block in Fulham Court, Drayton Gardens, London SW10. (Beaney Pearce, 0171-589 1333).



In North Yorkshire, £800,000 would stretch to Bilbrough Manor, near York, a Grade II listed ten-bedroom Edwardian country house in 42 acres of formal gardens, park and woodland, with views over the Yorkshire Dales. It is perfect for entertaining, with four ballroom-sized reception rooms, a two-room flat and a self-contained two-bedroom annexe. (Knight Frank, 01904 671672).



Spend the same sort of money in Edgbaston, a mile from Birmingham city centre, and you could have Spring Cottage, a charming Grade II listed six-bedroom Regency house in 2.3 acres of ornamental gardens and grounds. It comes with a self-contained converted coachhouse and a lake. (Knight Frank, 01789 297735).

CHERYL TAYLOR

We should be wary of adopting Scotland's system of house-buying, says Matthew Beard

ROY ELLSWORTH



Can we stump the gazumpers?

Ever since the housing market started to show an upturn, prospective buyers have been plagued by fears of gazumping. The practice of selling a property to a higher bidder after a previous offer has been accepted has re-emerged due to a shortage of good properties. At the same time, people are anxious to get on the property ladder as prices continue to rise.

Buyers are learning how sellers can be transformed from being otherwise decent, upstanding people into unprincipled sharks prepared to renege on a deal because the financial gain can be great — and because they can get away with it legally.

As the Government tries to eradicate gazumping, the system of house-buying in Scotland is being touted as a possible solution for England and Wales.

Gazumping north of the border carries severe penalties and is extremely rare. Under the Scottish system, when an offer is accepted it is binding and if either party then pulls out the other sues for damages. The speed of this system is one of its merits and it is

made possible because surveys and searches — the cause of so much delay in England and Wales — are carried out before an offer is made.

However, this can leave househunters out of pocket if there is a boom or a scarcity of property on the market, and bids frequently fail.

In one fashionable area of Edinburgh, where two and three-bedroom flats are soaring in price, stiff competition means buyers will have to bid for several different properties before striking lucky.

"Even if they're only having the most basic valuation done, if they fail five times you're talking about £600 in surveyors' fees without having achieved anything," says John Urquhart, a lawyer for the Nationwide building society and former chairman of the conveyancing committee of the Law Society of Scotland.

Surveyors may be less concerned because a survey carried out on one property can be very profitable if they are approached by other bidders — up to ten in some cases.

Attempts to protect the buyer from the cost of multiple surveys have failed. A proposal to introduce a single survey paid for by the seller proved unacceptable to some lenders, and many buyers did not trust a survey carried out for the seller.

Some estate agents offer discounts after the first survey, although these only apply to deals handled by that agency.

Also causing problems during a property boom is the standard practice of "blind bidding" where would-be buyers are not allowed to know until after the sale how much their rivals are offering. The recent buyers of a property in Edinburgh, West End, were shocked to discover their accepted bid of £170,000 was £50,000 more than the next highest.

Alan Baxter of Slater, Hogg and Howison, one of Scotland's largest estate agents, says that in Bearsden, a popular commuter area north of Glasgow, a "hungry band" of bidders is trying to second-guess the highest bid and is chasing prices up by 30 to 40 per cent.

Once the offer is accepted there is no going back. Although details remain to be hammered out by solicitors, the winning bid becomes part of the exchange of contracts and it is not usual to make a bid subject to contract and survey.

The problem is not that the buyer loses out — he may have benefited from an upturn in

LOOKING AT THE SCOTTISH MODEL

The Scottish system of house selling is one of several that will be considered by ministers as they conduct a study, announced earlier this month, of house buying and selling in England and Wales.

Following a manifesto pledge, the Government has undertaken to look at more than 1,000 house sales around the country. Estate agents, surveyors and solicitors will also have their say on how every aspect of house buying — from making an offer to handing over the keys — can be improved.

Although the study aims to scrutinise the role of solicitors, mortgage lenders and the fees they charge, the greatest interest is likely to focus on measures to eradicate the menace of gazumping.

Earlier this year the Consumer Affairs minister Nigel Griffiths said that changes in the law would be modelled on the Scottish system while keeping in mind the financial drawbacks of purchasers carrying out surveys before making an offer.

In Scotland an agreed offer is a binding contract with stringent penalty clauses and, with the government study due for completion next spring, a variation on this could soon come into force, signalling the end of gazumping.

Latest indications suggest that the Government favours a cost-guarantee scheme in which buyer and seller have to place a deposit with solicitors — as much as five per

cent of the purchase price — when an offer is accepted.

Any party who withdrew would forfeit the deposit to cover costs such as legal fees, surveys and searches.

If buyers and sellers fail to volunteer for the scheme, it may become a legal requirement. But estate agents say this alone would not eradicate gazumping.

Earlier this month the National Association of Estate Agents called on lenders and local authorities to review their systems because, the NAEA says, they open the way to gazumpers by failing to turn around mortgage applications and searches quickly enough.

Bodies representing property professionals have also been asked to sign up to an extended ombudsman scheme which would cover nearly three quarters of firms and provide an independent complaints procedure for most homebuyers and sellers.

Another option is the use of lockout agreements between buyer and seller whereby the seller promises not to accept any other offers as the two parties move towards completion. If the seller breaks the undertaking, the buyer can sue for damages. However, critics say this scheme would be hard to police.

In a further move to cut out gazumpers, agents could be obliged to notify buyers if they re-market the property after an offer has been accepted.

the worst excesses of the Dutch auction, as seen in England.

Until fairly recently many Scottish properties were sold at auction, and this is still used for repossessed properties. Although it appeals to buyers, it is hard to manage — for example if you are trying to buy something else — and there is little enthusiasm for it among property professionals.

Mr Urquhart says it would be wise to learn from the deficiencies of the Scottish system. "With the market-place much bigger in England, the effect of multiple surveys combined with blind bidding would create a lot of pressure and could be inflationary at precisely the wrong time."

THE WINNERS

JOHN MUIR, a retired building society manager, and his wife Ann, are assured of financial security after the sale of their house in Edinburgh.

When they put the detached house they had been living in for 17 years up for sale, during a property peak, it attracted seven bidders because it is in a suburban area popular with affluent young professionals.

Because people were bidding blind and all trying to top what they imagined would be the next highest bid, the asking price of £120,000 was easily beaten. The Muirs took the highest of six bids at £168,000.

They gained full benefit of this premium because they bought their retirement home — an £86,000 luxury flat in the city centre — from a builder at 1996 prices, before building work had begun.

THE LOSERS

JULIE MARSHALL, a media sales executive bought a terraced house in Glasgow's fashionable West End last month but immediately wished she hadn't.

She sold her previous house for 10 per cent more than the asking price to move. At the third attempt her offer was accepted after she bid slightly more than she had intended.

She said: "I was delighted to get the house I wanted, but it did annoy me that I had gone £3,000 more than the next highest bidder."

"In some ways it would seem fairer if there were a straightforward auction. Everyone would know what everybody else was bidding and could pull out when they wanted to. That must be better than finding out you have thrown away a lot more than necessary."

SUPERB SAVINGS ON ELEGANT CANTEEN OF CUTLERY

Viners

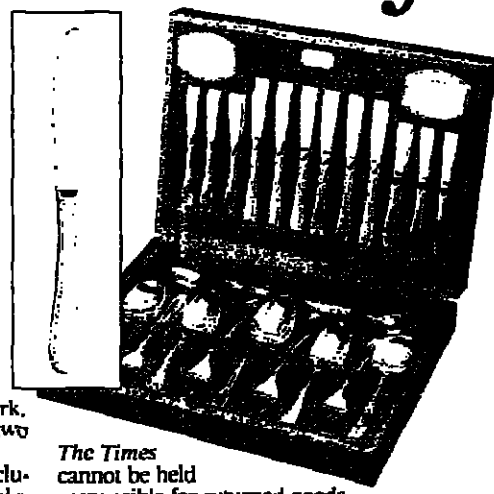
Vienna Cutlery

Buy a 58-piece stainless steel canteen of cutlery with 25-year guarantee for only £79.99, saving over £100 on the MRRP of £184.99

THIS VINERS 58-piece set comes in an attractive, lined wooden canteen and contains eight place settings of table knife, table fork, dessert knife, dessert fork, dessert spoon, teaspoon, soup spoon and two serving spoons.

The Vienna design is part of Viners exclusive tabletop cutlery collection and will add a touch of elegance to any dining table. The cutlery is dishwasher safe, which makes it ideal for everyday use.

This special price to Times readers of £79.99 offers a total MRRP saving of £105, inclusive of carriage. Please allow 28 days for delivery. If you are not completely satisfied, return with seven days for a full refund.



The Times cannot be held responsible for returned goods lost in transit.

Offer is subject to availability and offered in the UK only.

How to order: fill in the coupon and send, together with cheque or postal order (no cash) to: The Times Cutlery Offer FT670, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD or telephone our order hotline.

The Times Viners Vienna Cutlery Offer

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to: The Times Cutlery Offer FT670.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Quantity: _____

Order Per Item: £79.99

TOTAL: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Send coupon and remittance to THE TIMES CUTLERY OFFER FT670, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7ZD. You may be sent further information on offers and services which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 01252 851945 (24 HOURS)

PROPERTY PROFILE: CHESHIRE

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Attractions: Chester's galleried arcades, its medieval and roman city walls and cathedral have been admired by many travellers. Cheshire was home to the Victorian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell, who based several of her novels in the county, including *Cranford*, a tale of 19th-century village life, which drew much from her girlhood at Knutsford, along with Holmes Chapel, Tarporley, Alderley Edge and Chester. Knutsford is much sought after by buyers. Agents emphasise the area's commuter road links with the M6, M53, M56 and M62 and the A55/A5 from Chester to Holyhead. InterCity services from Chester to London take about two hours and Manchester Airport is within easy reach.

The market: Steady, but good, agents say. Strutt & Parker in Chester reckons that turnover has increased, with a good range of properties for sale in varying price ranges. Jackson-Stops & Staff in Chester reports a number of cash buyers, which has injected confidence into the market.

Prices: These have risen by 10 to 15 per cent for prime properties, says Strutt & Parker. Jackson-Stops estimates that prices fell by 25 to 30 per cent from around 1990 to 1991, with the market bottoming out in 1992 to 1993. Cavendish Ikin in Tarporley says prices began to pick up in autumn 1995.

Expect to pay: From £120,000 to £180,000 for a three-bedroom cottage; £200,000 to £300,000 for a farmhouse with land; and £350,000 to £550,000 for a medium-size country house. Jackson-Stops says. Demand for old rectories, with around five acres and in a good commutable location, outstrips supply, according to Strutt & Parker.

Significant sale: Grade I listed Brereton Hall recently sold through Strutt & Parker for close to its £1.3 million asking price. The Elizabethan mansion, with ballroom, was on the market for about four to five months. The property was sold in two lots with lot two a Georgian coach house. Many would-be buyers are moving into the area because their companies have been relocated to Liverpool or Manchester, says Jackson-Stops. A swifter sale was Riley Bank Farmhouse, near Frodsham, selling close to its £375,000 asking price within 24 hours of going on the market, through Cavendish Ikin.

Outlook: Steady but good, says Strutt & Parker, which adds that people can sell their houses without worrying about not being able to afford their next. Prices will remain firm, says Jackson-Stops, but still have a way to go to return to pre-recession level.

AMANDA LOOSE

Next week: Oxfordshire.



71 613 3055

LONDON PROPERTY

WOLFGANG PÖCK
Internat. Arch.

London's most exciting and futuristic riverside development
 designed to meet the living needs of the 21st Century

Millennium Harbour is a six building waterfront development ranging from 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms luxury apartments to an extensive landscaped garden and a waterfront promenade. Designed by award winning architects CZWG the development specification includes a 5,000 sqm state of the art leisure complex, garage parking, concierge and optional computer controlled apartment management system.

PRICES FROM £144,000 TO £625,000


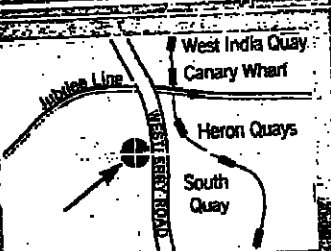
Open 7 days, Monday to Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am-5pm

BURYMORE
<http://www.burymore.co.uk>

SAVILLS
 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS
 0171 338 9586

MARKETING SUITE
 0171 537 7502

ASAP
 ALAN SAGLEY & PARTNERS
 ESTATE AGENTS
 0171 613 3055

A £20 million villa on the Riviera to suit a modern-day James Bond or even a newly-wed Dodi Fayed



The south-facing pool terrace: Bagatelle, positioned on one of the most desirable sites in Super Cannes, is perfect for the big-time entertainer

High indulgence in Cannes

There are different levels of playboy status. While for some, lip-stick on the collar, a red Mazda coupe and thong swimming trunks may be enough, the genuine International Playboy will need stronger credentials to earn his title.

A £20 million estate in Cannes, set in four acres with three villas and four pools, will

not only increase the playboy's pulling power but also provide him with a ready-to-wear life-style. The higher you climb up the hill to Super Cannes the better your view (both inside and outside your exceedingly well appointed luxury villa). Famous for the film festival (two weeks every May), the Côte d'Azur town is a magnet for Middle-Eastern money

and has a fast-expanding Russian and German expatriate community. Bagatelle, which is positioned as king of the castle on one of the most desirable sites in Super Cannes, is perfect for the voyeuristic big-time entertainer.

This is the sort of house where James Bond (a late 1970s/early 1980s Roger Moore version, not Sean Connery) might have taken his steady-eyed Russian co-workers or ice-blond Scandinavian for a bit of *après travail*. Built in the late 1970s under the instructions of the present owners (a Swiss company), the house has views that are usually found in the set cupboard at Pinewood Studios.

The decor is not immediately easy on the eye. The main villa is awash with marble floors, wall-high paintings of semi-naked nymphs and display cabinets packed with crystal glass. There are more reflective surfaces in each room than in a Hall of Mirrors. If Barbie and Ken ever needed a love nest in France, they would fix it up in the style of the bedrooms at

Bagatelle. The telephone in the master bedroom is perfectly positioned for that untimely call, and the huge cushioned bed allows ample room for Bond to turn his back on his partner, roll over and discuss matters of real import.

The baths in all the en suites are made to be filled with sticky, sweet bubbles, big enough to cleanse the cast and crew of a soft-porn flick in one

sitting. If you do not appreciate seeing your reflection through the equivalent of a gold-plated fish-eye lens, this is not the pad for you. As well as the abundance of mirrors in the party rooms, the taps, basins and flushers in the bathroom are all *d'or faux* for that wealthy, jaundiced look.

The facilities upstairs and down could go under the title of "100 different ways to get



Views to live and let die for: the winter dining room looks over the Bay of Cannes

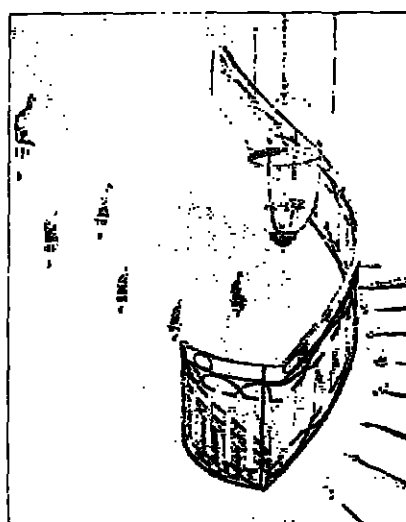
hot fast". Playboys and girls can frolic in saunas or lounge on sunbeds on heat-trapping mosaic terraces. There is a disco room in the main villa with original 1970s hi-fi equipment. The coloured lights and flashing dance floor evoke

memories of hot pants and latex body suits. There are Moroccan theme rooms in the main house and the two guest villas, with ethnic cushion covers and extensive tiling. It would take a Dodi Fayed to be able to operate Bagatelle

as a holiday home, although to retain her dignity Diana, Princess of Wales, would have to strip the main house.

ALEX O'CONNELL

Agents: Knight Frank (0171-629 8171)



The luxurious sweep of the main marble staircase leads to Bagatelle's glittering bedrooms

Photographs by Des Jensen

EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS



KARL LAGERFELD, the designer, owns properties in France, Italy and Germany. He has spent £5 million on his huge villa in Monaco, given to him for life by Prince Rainier.



GEORGE MICHAEL, the pop singer, lives in a £2 million villa in the chic Marres quarter of St Tropez. The eight-acre property has six bedrooms, a pool and a recording studio.



ELTON JOHN lives in a flamboyant, pink three-storey retreat on a hill overlooking Nice. Bougainvillea covers the walls of the secluded mansion, which is worth £5 million.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

● La Bagatelle, Cannes.
● Price: Freehold for sale by auction September 11 at Tribunal de Grande Instance de Grasse (Civil Court of Grasse). Auction reserve price is Fr192 million (about £20 million).
● Travel: La Croisette (3km), Nice International Airport (25km), helicopter from Nice airport to Monaco (five minutes).
● Entertainment: Blackjack, roulette and slot machines in Monaco, beach prowling on the Côte.



SURREY - Esher Price Guide: Excess £850,000
A modern & spacious house, ideal of entertaining, in an exclusive private road. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 shower rooms, 3 reception rooms, gym/playroom, garage, swimming pool & garden. About 0.31 ha (0.75 acres)
HEAD OFFICE: 0171 493 4106 WIMBLEDON: 0181 944 7172



CAMPDEN HILL GARDENS, WS.

A practical modern house with a garage, off street parking & a west facing terrace.
3 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms,
3 reception rooms,
kitchen, dressing room,
utility room & cloakroom.

Freehold

Price Guide:
£495,000

KENSINGTON:
0171 727 0705



PRIMROSE MANSIONS, PRINCE OF WALES DRIVE, SW11.
Lease to 2972 Price Guide: £160,000
Beautifully new over Battersea Park, a 2nd floor flat in a mansion block close to transport facilities. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room, kitchen, balcony, porter & share of freehold
BATTERSEA: 0171 228 0174

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS

ESTABLISHED 1872



OXFORD - Boars Hill Price Guide: £365,000
In a delightful setting with mature gardens & grounds in excess of half an acre. 4/5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2/3 reception rooms, kitchen, dressing room, utility room, cloakroom, double garage, outbuilding & carport. About 0.3ha (0.62 acres).
OXFORD: 01865 311522

LONDON OFFICES

BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174
BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854
CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484
FULHAM: 0171-731 4223
KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705
MAYFAIR: 0171-408 0055
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556
WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033
WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172

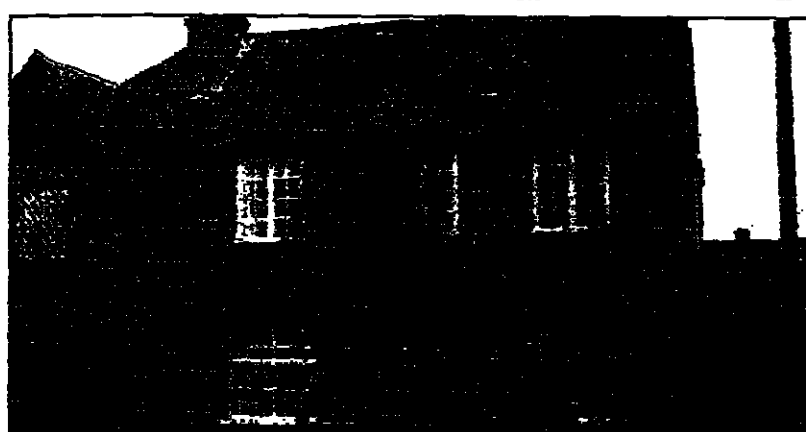
COUNTRY OFFICES

HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106
CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244
EAST GRINSTEAD: 01342 326326
FARNHAM: 01252 737115
LYMINGTON: 01590 677233
NEWBURY: 01635 523225
OXFORD: 01865 311522
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131
HONG KONG: 00 852 2 872 5146

26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 8LD
0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071

LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT

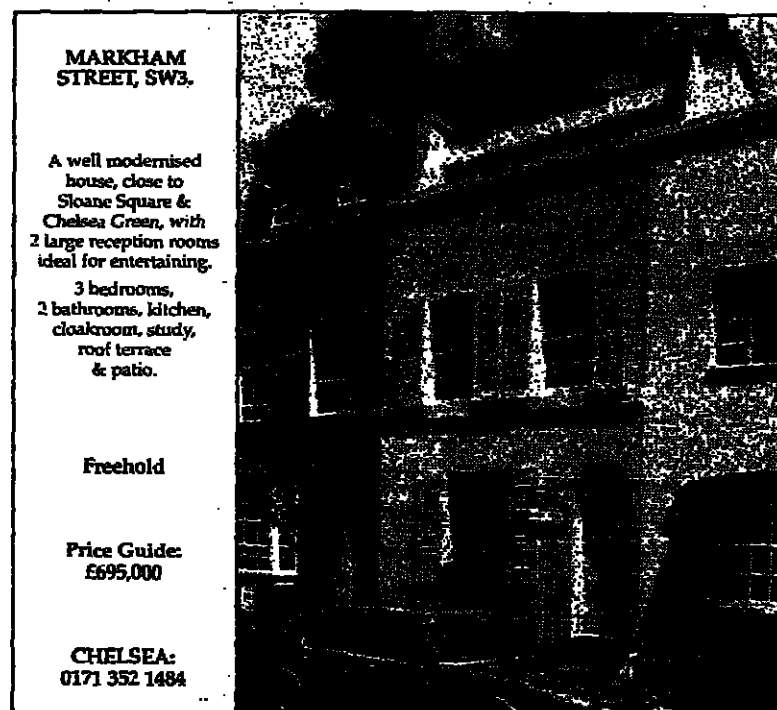
To let your house or flat Central London 0171-491 4311
North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447
South of the M4 01256 398004 North of the M4 01865 311522



BERKSHIRE - Compton Freehold Price Guide: £118,000
A spacious and period semi-detached cottage in Compton village to the north of Newbury. 2/3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, utility/storage room & garden.
NEWBURY: 01635 523225



ABERDARE GARDENS, NW6. Lease to 2035 Price Guide: £249,000
A spacious flat requiring some modernisation, in a large Victorian building with a private garden. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room, with open plan kitchen & cloakroom.
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171 722 5556



MARKHAM STREET, SW3.

A well modernised house, close to Sloane Square & Chelsea Green, with 2 large reception rooms ideal for entertaining.
3 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms, kitchen,
cloakroom, study,
roof terrace & patio.

Freehold

Price Guide:
£695,000

CHELSEA:
0171 352 1484



HAMPSHIRE - Odham. Price Guide: £345,000
A beautifully presented house in the centre of Odham. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms (one with a conservatory), kitchen, cloakroom, garden & double garage.
FARNHAM: 01252 737115

At home with the colonials

Try ants if you want a pet but not the bother, says Jessica Gorst-Williams

Forget about the kind of attention-seeking pet that bites into your time when you have none to spare: a dog that needs walking, a cat which demands fish, a bored hamster with a broken wheel. An ant, or rather a colony of ants, will live happily without you.

Sebastian Grant, 29, who has had ants ever since he can remember, says that there are a number of good reasons for keeping the creatures as pets, one of which is that they "won't feel they are prisoners, whereas a hamster or a canary might do".

Because they are easy to keep, it is unsurprising that ant colonies are becoming more popular as household pets. Andrew Stephenson, an exotic insect importer from Falkirk, Scotland, says leaf-cutting ants are the most popular "because they are about the most complex social insects in the world".

In their rainforest habitat, he explains, tropical leaf-cutting ants devastate crops, making them unpopular with local villagers. In the past, the villagers would poison entire colonies, but recently a scheme has been set up encouraging them to collect the ants, so they can be exported to Britain.

The new arrivals are expensive. "South American ants will set a buyer back about £150 just for a nest," Mr Stephenson says. "Or £300 to £700 with the equipment as well. In the wild, such a colony might grow to four million, but you would need premises as large as two tennis courts and one storey high." The colonies most households opt for will contain about 10,000 to 15,000 ants. These should cost about £150, with nest and equipment.

But buyers should be careful before buying, Mr Stephenson



Ant colonies are becoming more popular with people who cannot devote much time to looking after pets. South American species are popular, but expensive

warns. Stories abound of shops selling bits of plastic with half a dozen ants and no queen for a tanner. "What should be included in the package is some aftercare service and advice," Mr Stephenson says. "There should be a tub of ants in some peat, including a queen. For tropical ants the aquarium should be equipped with a thermostat. This will keep the temperature at a constant 25°C."

Inside will be a smaller tank — the size of an eight inch cube — with an entrance hole. This is where the ant's nest is sited.

The nest will double as a garden on which the fungus crop that sustains the colony will grow. A branch will connect it to a flat glass platform at the far end of the tank — this is where the owner should place foodstuffs such as leaves, flowers and bits of ham and cereal.

At first, the ants will excavate the peat. Then they will start gathering and processing the food, which they will combine with saliva and chew into a pulp.

Droppings are added and the mulch is used as fertiliser

for the fungus. Like all pets, ants need water. "To keep the peat moist I spray a light mist of water every day or so," Mr Grant says. "As they tend to throw the debris into the water, that will need draining."

Owners worried that the creatures will escape can be put at ease by the fact that proper nests have an inch or so of water at the base, which locks them in.

As Mr Grant says: "Even if they do get out they are likely

to return to their food source. This happened to my Trinidad ants. They were spotted on the wrong side of the tank but soon made their way back."

This month, Mr Stephenson is going to Gambia to find some weaver ants, which are so named because they create a nest carton by folding over leaves and stitching them together with the silk the larvae produce. A nest of 4,000 will cost about £150.

Mr Grant also has a colony of black carnivorous Portuguese wood ants, which he keeps in a tank with half an

inch of water. "I found a colony living in some wood I found, so took it home and kept them. I mainly feed them on insects or dog food."

Mr Grant says there is no need to buy foreign ants: retrieving and keeping a local ant colony will cost you nothing. "You can start keeping ants in a coffee jar which you should stand in a washing-up bowl," he says.

How many other people's pets make their own food, build their own home and are quiet and cheap to keep? They might be the ideal pet.

FACT FILE

■ **COLLECT** a nest and put it, and some earth, into a jar with ventilation. Fill small aquarium with peat, and place in bowl with a centimetre of water. Put ants in aquarium with food and sugar water. Spray peat daily.

■ **To buy ants:** Andrew Stephenson (01324 815369); Chiswick Pets (0181-747 0715).

The National Trust has enraged a village with a scheme to build houses on a farm in Wales. John Young reports

In the fields below Parciau Farm, Cwyl, cattle graze under the trees. Beyond the village of Old Colwyn the sea glimmers faintly in a heat haze. Only birdsong disturbs the silence.

Much of the beauty of the scene has, however, been ruined in recent years by the remorseless intrusion of new housing developments across the valley. Parciau Farm has become a green oasis, defying the onslaught of urbanisation and factory farming.

For local people it provides both a view and a cherished amenity. A public footpath climbs from the main road to the farmhouse, from where they can roam the fields and on clear days enjoy the views across to Snowdonia.

Until recently they were hopeful that the land would remain unspoiled because they knew it was owned by the National Trust. But a few weeks ago they were outraged to discover that the Trust had applied for planning permission for a housing development that would cover about 27 acres, or nearly half the farm.

Since then they have organised an energetic protest group and enlisted more than 1,000 signatories. For the past three weekends the Trust has found itself embarrassed by placard-waving pickets invading its properties such as Bodnant Gardens, in the Conwy Valley, the Telford Suspension Bridge and Abernethy House in the town of Conwy, Gwynedd, which at this time of year attract thousands of visitors.

Terry James, chairman of the protest group Occupants, claims that many tourists have been appalled by the Trust's action and have now threatened to resign their membership.

"We feel betrayed," Mr James

Not on our farmland, thank you

says. He cites the words of Sir Angus Stirling, former Trust chairman, in the 1995 Annual Report. Sir Angus wrote of "the Trust's social responsibility, its duty to consider the interests of its neighbours, the communities it seeks to serve and those who use the land it owns".

However, it is not so straightforward. The farm was given to the Trust in 1970 by the late Muriel Stott who, according to Mr James and his supporters, must have meant it to be left intact. For many years it was used for village fetes and carnivals.

"Otherwise why on earth would she have left it to the Trust?" he asks. "If she had wanted it to be built over, she would have sold it to a developer."

Those who remember Miss Stott personally, like Ena Wynne, a former mayor of Colwyn Bay, are adamant that she wanted the farm to remain unspoiled. Douglas Davies, one of her former tenants, claims he remembers her saying specifically that she never wanted to see the land developed. "That's why she left it to the Trust," he says.

As evidence of her benevolent nature, the objectors cite her gift of land for a sports ground and a new

school, and of her own home, Plas Parciau, to be used as an old people's home.

The Trust's version is, however, different. Miss Stott's intention, it says, was to present it with an asset which could subsequently be sold to realise funds to support its work elsewhere. The land now occupied by the school and the sports ground was included in her gift and subsequently sold, not given away, by the Trust. Peter Broomhead, its regional director, says the Trust would never have accepted the farm as something to be preserved in perpetuity. "It was an investment for sale at a more appropriate time," he says.

In a statement explaining the Trust's position, Mr Broomhead points out that its primary purpose as a charity is to own and care for places of historic interest or natural beauty. The vast majority of properties owned are held for ever and will never be sold.

"In contrast, it also accepts as gifts a small number of properties which are not of exceptional value in their own right, but are managed on a commercial basis to provide funds to support the Trust's work."

Despite requests from objectors, Miss Stott's letter donating the farm



More than 1,000 people have signed a petition about Parciau Farm

to the Trust has not been made public. This was because, he said, it was a private letter that she would not have wanted published.

The Trust's decision to apply for planning permission was prompted because the land at Parciau has been zoned for residential development in the latest local plan published by Colwyn borough council

after a long public inquiry. The application, due to be submitted last Wednesday, has now been postponed until October, but Graham Wild, the planning director of the council, says that it is likely, though not certain, to be approved.

Many people will feel that the Trust, of all organisations, should be opposing the developers, not

abetting them. Recently it has been criticised for selling sites in Dorset and part of the Dunham Massey estate in Cheshire.

However, Trust officials are adamant that there has been no change in policy. When Dunham Massey was given to the Trust by the Earl of Stamford in 1979, part of it was specifically designated to be sold so as to help maintain the rest of the estate. "Without that provision we would not have been able to accept the gift," a spokesman says. "To portray us as selling off properties all over the place which we should be preserving is untrue."

The Parciau objectors remain unconvinced. They accept that, given the extent of development, the farm can no longer be described as a beauty spot and realise that, unlike the Trust's much visited "honeypots", it has little to attract visitors from outside the area.

However, what has not been taken into consideration, they say, is the wildlife. Local veterinary surgeon Ann Owen, for example, has found ample evidence of a large and thriving badger sett which would be destroyed by development, and a colony of short-eared bats has also made its home in the farm buildings which the Trust has allowed to become derelict. The present state of these buildings, with doors and windows smashed and surrounded by debris, is evidence, the objectors say, that the Trust cannot wait to get rid of its property.

It is difficult to refute the Trust's case: despite revenue from investments, legacies, donations and membership fees, the cost of maintaining and restoring its growing list of properties continues to rise. But the price that must be paid is that little gems such as Parciau may be lost for ever.

A VET WRITES

Three weeks ago, my daughter acquired two guinea pigs named Hatie and Henry. They arrived complete with hutch, water and feeding bowls, food and instructions. But I am sure Hatie's pregnant. What should I know?

The gestation period is between 64 and 70 days. The average litter is three, four or five. The youngsters are fully developed at birth: they arrive with teeth, able to run about, eyes wide open. They suckle for three to four weeks, but eat solid food from a few days old. Trust Hatie. She knows what to do and unless she is obviously unwell, or straining and producing nothing for an hour or more, don't interfere.

Conventional wisdom says Henry should move into another cage, but plenty of unexpected litters arrive with the sire present and all goes well. If Henry remains in residence, there will be some more new-arrivals in ten weeks. Castrating Henry will avoid this.

We're moving house shortly — 100 miles north — and taking two cats. One is two years old. Everyone tells us something different about acclimatising them. Please help.

Cats travel best with empty stomachs. Which means arriving at their new home feeling hungry. Wait an hour or so. When they tell you they are starving open the back door, let them look out, then offer a bowl of their favourite food. Hunger will bring them in.

Keep up this "go out hungry, come back for food" routine for a couple of weeks, gradually increasing the interval between going out and feeding. Moving 100 miles makes things simpler. Cats moved a mile or so, within familiar territory, are more inclined to return to their old home.

Our golden cocker, Susie, has caught lice. The vet prescribed a shampoo to be used four times at five-day intervals. We're worried about the children. Could they catch Susie's lice?

Don't worry about the children. Susie's lice are a different species from the human ones. Lice are easily killed by most insecticidal shampoos, but nits — louse eggs — are great survivors. The five-day interval is important. Shampoo number one kills the adult lice. Number two kills newly hatched lice before they can mate and lay eggs. Bath number three sweeps up late-hatching nits, and the fourth is for good luck.

JAMES ALLCOCK
Writes to *The Times* Vet. Weekend.
The Times, 1 Pennington Street,
London, E14 4NN. Advice is offered
without legal responsibility.

ADOPT ME



Spanky, abandoned

SPANKY is a brown and white Jack Russell aged four who has been homeless for three weeks. She was found abandoned in a local back garden. She has settled into the NCOL Rescue Centre and is extremely friendly and good with other dogs, so would fit into a home with pets and children. If you wish to adopt Spanky, please call Mary Carney on 01266 652977.

TEL: 0171 680 6122

ANIMALS & ACCESSORIES

FAX: 0171 782 7799

CATS Looking for a cat? Special offers on all cats. Call 01777 280000. DOGS Great selection of dogs. Call 01777 280000. MEMORIALS Pet Gaskets Precious Pets 0121 520 1816	DOGS Welsh Corgi Puppies. Call 0121 520 1816. ANIMAL HEALTH RSCA's 01777 280000	ANIMAL HEALTH Animal Healing Course 01736 810409	LOST PETS Lost your pet? Found someone's? Call 01777 280000. KENNEL SALES 01777 280000	SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS Logie Farm Riding Centre 01348 651220	PET INSURANCE Special Readers Offer First 28 Days Cover FREE 0700 0800 800	LABRADOR stock sale 01777 280000	DISPOSABLE PUPPY MATS Now there's a fresh new way to toilet train your puppy. 01322 553822
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	---

CHIROPY NAIL CLIPPERS

ONLY £14.95

Our Chiropody Nail Clippers are designed for ease of use so as to allow the user to cut even the toughest of nails having a professional finish. The clipper is made from stainless steel and is completely safe. It is also suitable for use on the feet of the elderly and infirm. The clipper is made from the toughest stainless steel giving the user a clean cut every time.

QW Medical Supplies, Dept (TAL)
Aldershot, Surrey, GU11 1AA
Tel: 01250 553162

ANTIQUE DESKS

Large Stocks of old desks, Oak, Mahogany, Walnut, Victorian, Edwardian, Rolltop, Cylinder, Partner's, Dickens and Pedestal Desks. Free delivery within mainland UK.

DON SPENCER ANTIQUES
WARWICK
(01926) 499857 - (01926) 467989
Mobile 0836 525755
www.antiquest-desks.co.uk

OLD DESKS PURCHASED
36A Market Place, Warwick. (Beneath Vintage Antique Centre)
www.antiquest-desks.co.uk

The 'Sheila Maid'

Just look and you'll know the difference! The 'Sheila Maid' is the only vacuum cleaner that can be used on any surface. It's the only vacuum cleaner that can be used on any surface. It's the only vacuum cleaner that can be used on any surface.

MEDICUR

GUARANTEES PAIN RELIEF OR YOUR MONEY BACK

66 The little box that provides proven pain relief for hundreds of sufferers of back pain, headaches, stiff and swollen joints, sleeplessness, PMS, fatigue, tension and so many other conditions is GUARANTEED to work for you, or your money back - no quibble. You've nothing to lose but your pain!!

Send for your FREE, no obligation information pack

MEDICUR (UK) LTD, Dept T168, Palmer House, 11 Radcliffe Road, Nottingham, NG2 5FE
Tel: 0115 914 1144

COMPUTER DESKS

& Unusual Antique style cabinets to hide computers for the home & office environment in solid Mahogany, Walnut, Yew, Birdseye Maple and other exotic woods. Made by mastercraftsmen in 3 ranges to suit all lifestyles & income groups.

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS
732 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL (BETWEEN GATWICK & BRIGHTON) WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX
Mon-Sat 9 am - 5.30 pm
Tel: 01444 245577

MORIARTI'S SOLID PINE STORAGE BEDS

For NEW colour brochure FREE
(01233) 850214

ADJUSTAMATIC
No.1 IN ADJUSTABLE BEDS

DON'T SETTLE ON ANYTHING LESS

CALL, or WRITE to Jane NOW for your FREE Colour Brochure and Healthy Sleep Guide.

Adjustamatic Beds Ltd, FREEPOST, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7BR
7 DAY-24HR FREEPHONE 0800 805000

Enhance the beauty of your home with a stylish and elegant quality reproduction school room clock.

Mahogany finish wood base, glass front. Solid brass. Roman numerals and quartz movement.

Send cheque or postal order for £24.95 plus £3.50 p&p to purchase by Credit Card Ring 01924 349978

For further details please contact: Operatives International Ltd, Horwath House, 919 Bradford Road, Batley WF17 9TY. Tel: 01924 349977

GUARANTEED MITE FREE PILLOWS
£12.99 each (£24.99 PAIR)

Allergy Relief Products Ltd.
Mansion Road, Southampton SO15 3BP
Tel/Fax 01703 332919

AMIGO HERBAL TRAVEL KIT

Herbal travel kit made from natural and well-known Chinese herbs to deal with the ailments arising from travel, including vomiting, diarrhoea, food poisoning, indigestion, influenza and more. For brochure write to: Chinese Herbs Ltd, 22 Ross Lane, Ammanham, Bucks, HP8 6BP.

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS
Hand Made by Mastercraftsmen

18th & 19th Century Replica Furniture in Solid Mahogany, Walnut, Yew, Birdseye Maple and other exotic woods. Made to a standard unsurpassed this century.

BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS

Visit the factory and Superstore showrooms to view the Worlds largest display of English Antique Replica Furniture or phone for brochure

732 SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL, (BETWEEN GATWICK & BRIGHTON) WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX
Mon-Sat 9 am - 5.30 pm.
Tel: 01444 245577

THE LADYS NORFOLK HAT

At last! A beautiful 100% cotton, light, cool and crisp lady's sun hat. Wide brim protects you from the sun. Folds flat to fit in a bag, washable, perfect for summer travel.

Available in Natural, Pale Pink and Pale Blue. Sizes S 54-55cm, M 56-57cm, L 58cm and XL 59cm.

For 48hr Despatch
0171 371 8998

Norfolk Hats, Unit 7, The Talina Centre, Bexley Lane, London SW6 2BW
Fax 0171 371 7011

£23.50 (plus £2.50 p&p)

Made in U.K.

West of England REPRODUCTION FURNITURE

AT FACTORY PRICES IN MAHOGANY, YEW & OAK.

BOOKCASES: Book-shelf and Sleigh-front. Sizes 3' 9" wide and 6' 7" high.

CORNER CABINETS: 7 different colours in two sizes from £225.

TABLES & CHAIRS: 7 Mahogany tables with 2 chairs, and 4 chairs. From £645. Over 40 varieties of tables to suit homes of all sizes. Over 30 designs of chairs in traditional designs.

AT FACTORY PRICES

• Refer to your specifications to match existing furniture in lounge, dining room or kitchen.

• Replicate manufacture to be: oak standard in Oak and Mahogany.

• Best quality and top value.

• Walnut range covering TV, Chairs, Sideboards, Bookcases, Display Cabinets, TV & Hi-Fi Cabinets, occasional pieces etc.

• FREE DELIVERY for orders over £1000 throughout the South of England, elsewhere by quotation.

HAND-MADE OAK: A complete range of traditional hand-made Oak & Ash. Deserts, Refectory Tables, Game-Lug Tables with Windsor chairs of all designs.

TV & HI-FI CABINETS: At most electronics, of all sizes. From just £150.

DESKS: from 3' 0" to 6' 0" L. prices from £295 (4'2" Desk)

FREE COLOUR BROCHURE & PRICE LIST

West of England Reproduction Furniture
8 Bardon Court, Houndstone Business Park, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8RU
TEL: YE09VL 01935 706351 • FAX: YE09VL 01935 432228
also at: Yeovil: 01235 714771 • Dorset: 01792 492370 • Southampton: 01160 20079

The best stairlift?

Stannah.
The world's most chosen stairlift.

0800 715 309

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS

With largest problems solved from 1942-1997. Sunday Newspapers from 1915. Ready for presentation. Some day dispatch.

REDEMPTION VOUCHER
520 Pearly Way, 1st Floor, London, Surrey CR0 4NL, UK
0181 688 6323
or call FREE 0500 520 000

Recreating the period. Perfectly.

At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of English 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection. Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere.

WILLIAM TILLMAN
20% DISCOUNT UNTIL END OF AUGUST

30 St James's Street, London SW1A 1BB
Telephone: 0171 839 2500 Fax: 0171 930 8106

1424 Crouch Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8LT
Telephone: 01732 953278 Fax: 01732 864439

REVOLUTIONARY DESIGN THAT GIVES MEN HORIZONTAL HOLD

THE REVOLUTIONARY BRIEF FROM HOM

New angle on pants flies in the face of fashion

World famous French manufacturers have been revolutionised men's underwear by designing a brief with a horizontal rather than a vertical fly.

The horizontal opening of the new HOM Briefs allows for quicker and easier access for both the right or left dresser. Already a winner in France, it's now arrived here and is available to you through the exclusive Direct Male catalogue.

The Direct Male catalogue also gives you the opportunity to see the very latest styles in men's designer underwear from other leading manufacturers.

The collection features a wide range of classic styles as well as innovative designs in the new high performance fabrics. Most importantly these garments are tailored to the highest standards for the ultimate in comfort and control.

If you would like to get to grips with the new HOM brief and the very latest in mens underwear, phone the number below or complete and return the coupon to request a free copy of Direct Male.

As an introductory offer you can choose £10 worth of free underwear with your first purchase - because we're confident it won't be your last.

SEND NOW FOR YOUR FREE CATALOGUE

TO REQUEST YOUR FREE CATALOGUE OF DESIGNER UNDERWEAR PHONE: **01782 611599**

Please send me a free copy of your catalogue featuring HOM and your complete collection of designer underwear for men.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTCODE: _____
SEND TO: DIRECT MALE, DEPT SSTT, SPENCER ST, NEWCASTLE, STAFFS ST6 5QZ

THE SUPERB RECHARGEABLE SHAVER WITH MICROFOIL HEAD

A REAL 'SMOOTHIE'

for an unbeatable **£9.95** (plus £2.95 p&p)

Use at home, in the office or in the car!

"She laughed when I told her I'd bought a rechargeable shaver for less than £10, but after I had used it..."

It's absolutely true, you can now purchase a quality Rechargeable Shaver for the amazingly low price of only £9.95 plus p&p, complete with a deluxe hard case, mirror, cleaning brush, protective cover and a spare foil. A real 'smoothie' of a shaver, you've only to use it to appreciate how its micro-foil head simply follows the contours of your face to give you a real close shave.

ORDER TODAY CREDIT CARD HOLDERS PHONE ANYTIME ON: 01274 691155

Complete and post today to: Prospect Mail Order, Crown Point Mills, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NP.

PRODUCT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
RECHARGEABLE SHAVER	1	£9.95	

I enclose my cheque/PO for £ _____
or please debit my Access/Visa _____
Card expiry date: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

Signatures: _____
Address: _____

Pay to: 280004, Future value which may be of interest may be sent to you by other suitable means. If you do not wish to be contacted, please write to: Prospect Mail Order, Crown Point Mills, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NP.

RELAIS &



CHATEAUX

In association with MasterCard



Queen Victoria fell in love with the sheer magnificence of Inverlochy Castle in Fort William, Scotland; and you can find out just why for yourself by taking advantage of our superb Passport to Europe offer on short breaks

Today, *The Times*, in association with Relais & Châteaux and MasterCard, brings readers a fantastic opportunity — the chance to enjoy a short break for two in many of the best hotels in Europe at greatly reduced prices.

This is the sixth year running that *The Times* has brought you our outstanding Passport to Europe promotion. Those thousands of readers who have already taken advantage of it know what a treat is in store. For readers new to the luxury of a Relais & Châteaux break, your stay will be an experience to remember.

The offer is valid between September 22, 1997 and April 9, 1998 and gives you a choice of 180 hotels in 16 countries renowned for their individuality and cuisine.

Passport to Europe offers an inclusive package for two people for one night at a price which includes your stay, dinner and breakfast, plus service charges and VAT. Prices start from £48 per person.

All you have to do is collect four out of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* today and next week and send them with the application form, printed on page four of this Passport to Europe insert. You will then receive a welcome pack which includes the Relais & Châteaux 1997 International Guide, details of

the hotels participating in this offer, plus a list of 175 restaurants offering *Le Lunch* — an exclusive invitation to *Times* readers to enjoy a gourmet lunch at the unbeatable price of £35.

You will also receive comprehensive details about a range of discounted travel offers from Leisure Direction. Once you have received your promotion pack, you can make reservations either direct with your chosen hotel or through a central reservations free telephone number.

Relais & Châteaux is a consortium of independently owned and mostly family-run hotels whose guiding philosophy is the five Cs: Character, Courtesy, Calm, Charm and Cuisine. Membership is regulated by the member-hotellers, so the reputation of all depends on the performance of each.

Your dream ticket to the best of Europe

You can save 25 per cent or more on a stay at any one of 180 of the finest hotels. A strong pound means there has never been a better time to take that break, says Heather Kirby

If it is unusual for hotels of this standard to give any discounts, it is even more unusual that they should give discounts in their restaurants, as many of these are run by celebrated chefs; all are of exceptional quality. In this country they include Raymond Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons and Michel Roux at the Waterside Inn. The majority of hotels are set in beautiful countryside parks or gardens. Mostly they are converted castles, abbeys, mills, staging posts or manor houses. They offer more than just a meal and a room for the night: they provide their guests

with a concept of general well-being in comfortable, elegant and quiet surroundings, where excellent service and superb food are all part of the experience.

Among the hotels there are 92 in France and 16 in the UK, including Summer Lodge near Dorchester, where you can stay for just £147.50 per couple, and Hambleton Hall, a 19th-century hunting lodge near Rutland, where you save £60.

Participating for the first time this year is one of Relais & Châteaux's oldest members, Inverlochy Castle, Fort William. Queen

Victoria is said to have fallen in love with the place and it is easy to see why. At the foot of Ben Nevis, with a loch and Scotch mist in the distance, Inverlochy is a dream destination for a short break.

The price for two is £315 instead of the usual £420.

Another first is the glamorous Hôtel de Crillon, Place de la Concorde, Paris. You will dine in one of their famed restaurants and enjoy one of the most elegant views in the world. With your Passport you will save approximately £120 per night.

Among the hotels in Ireland is

Longueville House, Co. Cork, where sheep graze in the grounds. The Blackwater River runs through the estate and the Mallow, Killarney, Cork, Tralee and Ballyvaughan golf courses are close by. Two can stay and dine for only £153.

There are many magnificent bargains on offer, including five hotels in the Paris area for less than £150 per night per couple. They include Le Manoir, an old hunting lodge, Hostellerie Le Clos, a Norman manor, and the Château de Courcelles, surrounded by champagne vineyards.

Pierre and Jany Gleize's establishment La Bonne Etape in the Alpe-de-Haute-Provence, will welcome you for £100 for two. You will sleep with the scent of lavender from the surrounding fields wafting through the windows.

With the exchange rate favouring

the pound, there has never been a better opportunity to take advantage of our Passport to Europe.

Having a MasterCard (there are more than 300 million in circulation, almost 12 million in the UK) will assist you with the other fantastic part of this year's promotion. This is *Le Lunch*, an entirely new concept in eating out (see below). When you receive your promotion pack you will find a tear-off order form which is part of the cover of your Relais & Châteaux 1997 guide. You will receive a pre-paid voucher with which to pay for your meal. And there are some sensational restaurants where you can treat yourself and a friend to a gourmet meal for a fraction of the usual price.

Among them is Girasol, near Alicante, Spain where, for owner Joachim Koepfer, cooking is a performance art. With classical music playing in the background and high chairs giving it the feel of a banquet, his restaurant will give you hours of pleasure as you savour one subtle flavour after another, to the accompaniment of fine wines.

There are many more equally wonderful places to dine awaiting you. So start collecting the tokens then send away for the guide — and prepare to experience them for yourself.

Spoilt for choice with an international line-up

In a *Times* special offer just £35 buys your passport to many of the finest restaurants in Europe.

Robin Young guides the gourmet

Excellence should never be confused with exclusivity. Hotels and restaurants do not earn a good reputation by catering to only the seriously wealthy. That is more likely to mean they are simply pretentious and overpriced.

Places of genuine quality stand out through their ability to provide special treats for people from all walks of life, and make them feel welcome, comfortable and contented — whatever their financial background.

One aspect of this year's special offer presented by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in conjunction with Relais & Châteaux Hotels is dedicated to this very notion.

The offer, providing an unprecedented opportunity to enjoy the finest international cooking in the most delightful and agreeable surroundings, is called *Le Lunch*. It is, in effect, a designer luncheon voucher for gourmets, valid in 175 Relais & Châteaux hotels in 13 European countries. It is a one-price ticket to the gastronomic delights that have made Relais & Châteaux hotels renowned for their culinary excellence.

Le Lunch vouchers, priced at £35 each, make even some of the smartest and most luxuriously appointed Relais & Châteaux hotels and restaurants (the Relais Gourmands) affordably accessible to all readers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Standards of cooking have always been of paramount importance to the Relais & Châteaux consortium. No establishment is admitted to membership unless its standards of cuisine are judged high enough. The judges are existing members, many of whose restaurants are already acclaimed in guidebooks and showered with stars, rosettes and other awards. Such restaurateurs and chef-proprietors make the most knowledgeable and toughest restaurant critics.

Relais & Châteaux members are also, by definition, independent and privately owned hotels, each with its own individual style and character.

But the one thing that all the offers have in common is the price — just £35. That sum buys a voucher exchangeable at lunchtime at any of the 175 participating hotels or restaurants. In some it will cover a



You can sample the creations of highly rated chef owner Horst Petermann, centre, at the Restaurant Kunststube near Zurich

four-course meal with wine, water and coffee. In many, the management will provide a special fixed menu, while others will encourage customers to take their choice à la carte.

While most of the hotels and restaurants joining the scheme are in France, where 102 leading establishments will be offering *Le Lunch*, eight participating establishments are in the United Kingdom, and two in Ireland. And there are opportu-

nities to indulge in the pleasures of *Le Lunch* in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Sweden, Italy and Spain.

The majority of the 175 participating restaurants have Michelin stars. And four have the three-star awards which denote that Michelin rate the food so highly it is worth undertaking a whole journey just for the sake of the eating experience.

Such three-star destination dining rooms include: the Côte Saint-Jacques at Joigny on the banks of the Yonne, where Jean-Michel Lorain will present a four-course fixed menu with wine and coffee included — all this in exchange for the *Le Lunch* voucher.

It is not so distant Burgundian neighbour, Marc Meneau at L'Esperance at Vézelay, charges extra for wine and

coffee but the four-course fixed menu may, as a consequence, be particularly lavish.

Another three-star experience awaits at the Restaurant Schwarzwaldstube within the Hotel Traube-Tonbach in Germany's Black Forest, where the chef de cuisine is Harald Wohlfahrt, a master of classic French cuisine.

Finally there is Don Alfonso 1890, an Italian Relais Gourmand at Santa Agata sue Due Golfi, overlooking

the Gulfs of both Naples and Salerno, producing its own poultry, vegetables and oils and specialising in cooking infused with Mediterranean herbs and spices.

The two-stars enthusiastically promoting *Le Lunch* include famous names like Alain Chapel at Mionnay near Lyon; Jean Bardet in Tours on the Loire; Firmin Arrambide's Les Pyrénées at St Jean-Pied-de-Port in the Pays Basque; the restaurants of Michel Rostang and Guy

Savoy, Alain Dutournier's Carré des Feuillants and the historic Grand Vefour in Paris; Pic in Valence; and the Auberge des Templiers at Les Bezauds, Boismorand near Montargis, one of the founder members of Relais & Châteaux 50 years ago.

In the United Kingdom the two-star participants include both Michel Roux fils at Le Gavroche in Mayfair, the establishment which can claim to have laid the foundations of modern British cookery under the direction of his father, Albert; and the inexhaustibly energetic Raymond Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, now firmly established as this country's highest rated country house hotel.

Among the other hotels and restaurants participating are many rising stars, including establishments whose chefs are graduates of famous Relais & Châteaux kitchens elsewhere. One tipped to watch is Horst Petermann, the German-born owner chef at the Restaurant Kunststube at Küssnacht, a few minutes from Zurich.

There is no reason to limit the number of establishments visited using *Le Lunch* vouchers. They also make excellent gifts for friends. But whichever Relais and Châteaux establishment you choose, after 40 years experience as a customer I can honestly say I would be astonished if you were disappointed.

RELAIS & CHATEAUX



Surrounded by beauty and medieval magic

DORDOGNE

Brian MacArthur
takes the scenic
route to a castle

On almost any journey through France there are sights that are so spectacular you are forced to stop and savour them. There were several such moments on a holiday last week — the first sight of Carcassonne, the cathedral at Albi, the valley of the Lot, the rural beauty of the Tarn.

Another, as we drove from Larroque in the Tarn via Rocamadour to Lacave, where our journey was to end, was the first sight of the Château de la Treyne, perched over the River Dordogne in the Lot. We gazed in awe at this beautiful medieval castle, standing sheer over the river and seeming as if it had been created by the 20th century wizards of Disney instead of the French between the 14th and 17th centuries.

At the end of a day's driving along the minor roads of France in the midsummer heat, the prospect that cheers is a swim, a bath or shower, an hour of reading and a decent dinner. The Château de la Treyne, owned by Michele Gombert-Devals, set in 300 acres of parkland with 12 rooms and two apartments in all shapes and sizes, each elegantly decorated and with jumbo beds, met every expectation. We sat in the garden under a Cedar of Lebanon and read our books. We swam under trees in a pool surrounded by sloping lawns. Back in our room at the top of the castle we decided against the whirlpool bath and opted instead for a shower which had jets from the side walls as well as overhead. And then as the sun set over the river and the wooded hills beyond,



Château de la Treyne: set in 300 acres of parkland

we had a long and lingering dinner on the floodlit terrace overlooking the river far below. Our small cup of melon soup was followed by lobster, John Dory fillets with aubergines, lamb stuffed with vegetables in an olive sauce, a plate of Roquefort served with a glass of prune brandy and petit fours, and coffee with a glass of vieux prune — all served on Limoges china, costing a lot less than a similar dinner in London and sending us to bed very content indeed.

Our day at the Château de la Treyne — we stayed on for breakfast and lunch (baby rabbit, roast salmon) next day and read in the garden — was a perfect end to a French holiday (just as it would be a perfect beginning). Lacave is 25 miles from Brive, where we caught the motor rail back to Calais.

My other Relais & Châteaux discovery last year was Les Logis de l'Aubergade, a 13th-century house in the small hilltop village of Puymirrol near Agen in the Lot et Garonne. Puymirrol is one of those attractive French villages which seems almost deserted. Yet it boasts the outstanding restaurant of the area, attracting gourmets from as far away as Toulouse, 90 kilometres along the motorway, where owner-chef Michel Trauma has won two Michelin stars and four Gault Millau toques and has the Gallia wit to serve a "hamburger" of foie gras.

Over the past few years, his wife Maryse has developed the hotel arm of the restaurant with a walled garden and small swimming pool. There are now ten rooms, each boldly designed with a superb mixture of ancient and modern furniture.



The restaurant at the Crillon: The service is so impeccable that you could probably order in any tongue you liked

I have often wondered how the other half lives. Now I know. They go to Paris and they check in at the Hotel de Crillon. Let us be clear. I am not a stranger to luxury overnights. I have stayed in hotels classed among the best in the world. But none has the sheer style, la grande pompe, of the Crillon.

Built in the mid-18th century, when every public building was a symbol of French pride, the long, colonnaded facade, with its balconies and tall windows, is as equally suited to a palace as to a hotel. Location adds to the sense of majesty.

The Crillon looks out over Place de la Concorde, with its Egyptian obelisk at the centre and the National Assembly beyond. To the left is the Pantheon, Notre Dame and the Louvre. To the right, the gold dome of Les Invalides. It is but a short walk to

I've dined and gone to heaven

PARIS

the Champs Elysées, and one of the charms of staying at the Crillon is to be able to stroll for an evening drink in what is still a most romantic setting. Just try to ignore the less agreeable sights, such as the sharp-suited boucciers outside the fashionable night spots. The bar at the Crillon was famous in the prewar days as the haunt of foreign correspondents. With the American Embassy next door, it is still a popular meeting place for the international set, but now the business people get the

best tables. It is the same in the Ambassadeurs, the grandest of the Crillon's two restaurants. The service is impeccable; efficient but never overbearing, and conducted, it seems, in whatever language the client chooses. If your palate tends towards the rich, the foie gras will prove irresistible, but my own culinary trip to heaven was via the lobster salad, followed by rabbit in mustard sauce. The wines are expensive but quality and price are well matched and, what the hell, this is a special occasion.

And so to bed. There are suites big enough to accommodate a

small army. These are at the front of the building, where grandees of suitable stature might feel the need to address the crowds from one of the balconies. I was blissfully happy with an arrangement that took in a drawing room furnished in imperial style.

There was a bodyguard outside my door. Not for me. I hasten to add. He was there to protect the Sheikh of Arabi, who had booked the rest of the corridor for himself and six wives. Bidding him (the bodyguard, not the Sheikh) goodnight, I asked, as jocularly as possible, what I was to do if there was trouble. He patted the bulge in his jacket. "Let me look after it."

Such is the womb-like comfort and security engendered by the Hotel de Crillon, I did not doubt him for a moment.

BARRY TURNER

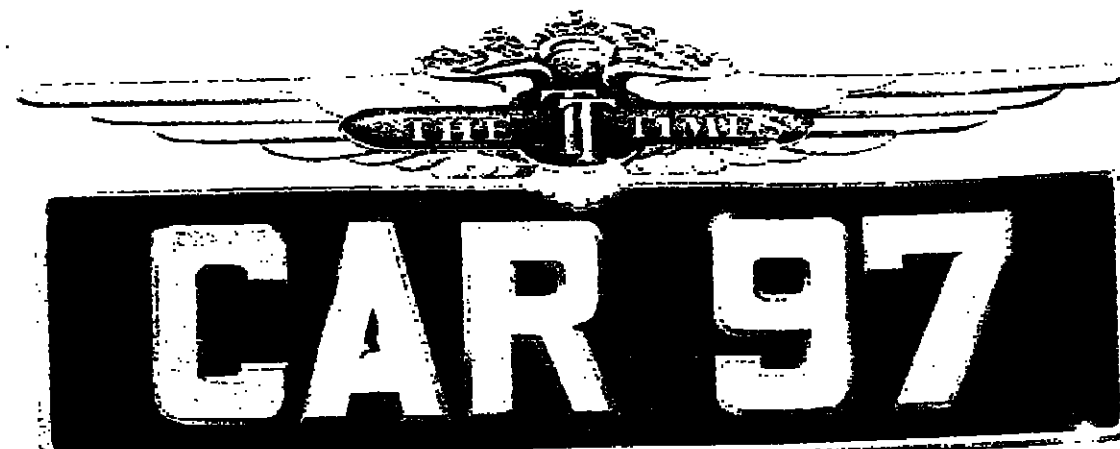
Take a luxury break: special offers for readers of The Times

HOTEL	NORMAL TARIFF	PROMOTION TARIFF	HOTEL	NORMAL TARIFF	PROMOTION TARIFF	HOTEL	NORMAL TARIFF	PROMOTION TARIFF
FRANCE			Château de Codignat	FFR 1670	FFR 1250	CZECH REPUBLIC		
Paris			Hostellerie La Poularde - RG	FFR 1800	FFR 1350	Hotel Hoffmeister	£159.23	£118.00
Hôtel de Crillon - RG	FFR 4870	FFR 3652	Villa Florentine	FFR 2720	FFR 2000	AUSTRIA		
Hôtel de Vigny	FFR 2494 (R&B only)	FFR 1870 (R&B only)	Michel Chabran - RG	FFR 2160	FFR 1620	Deuring Schiessle - RG	ÖS 3,260	ÖS 2,445
Paris Area			Alps			Sporthotel Singer	ÖS 2,280	ÖS 1,710
Cazaudehore et La Forestière	FFR 1850	FFR 1350	Château de Faverges de la Tour	FFR 1670	FFR 1250	Schlosshotel Igls	ÖS 4,400	ÖS 3,080
Le Manoir	FFR 1650	FFR 1150	Château de Divonne	FFR 1830	FFR 1370	Hotel der Bär	ÖS 3,240	ÖS 2,430
Hostellerie du Bas-Breäu	FFR 2590	FFR 1900	Château de Coudrée	FFR 1880	FFR 1410	Hotel Schloss Mönchstein	ÖS 5,940	ÖS 4,455
Auberge des Templiers - RG	FFR 2160	FFR 1560	La Verniaz et ses chalets	FFR 1455	FFR 1090	Hotel Goldener Hirsch	ÖS 5,300	ÖS 3,950
Château d'Esclimont	FFR 2150	FFR 1600	Auberge du Bois Prin	FFR 1400	FFR 1050	Hotel Grüner Baum	ÖS 3,050	ÖS 2,300
Hostellerie Le Clos	FFR 1800	FFR 1200	Chalet du Mont d'Arbois	FFR 2210	FFR 1660	SLOVENIA		
Royal Champagne	FFR 1900	FFR 1425	Le Ski d'Or	FFR 1500	FFR 1125	Hotel Vila Bled	£135.00	£102.00
Château de Courcelles	FFR 1730	FFR 1280	Fitz Roy Hôtel	FFR 2000	FFR 1400	DENMARK		
Pas de Calais, Normandy & Brittany			Provence / Côte d'Azur / Corsica			Falsed Kro - RG	DKR 3,220	DKR 2,415
Château de Montreuil	FFR 1910	FFR 1400	La Cardinale et sa Résidence	FFR 1800	FFR 1350	SWEDEN		
La Ferme Saint-Siméon	FFR 2860	FFR 2145	Château de Rochegude	FFR 2160	FFR 1620	Kræga Herrgård	SKR 2,190	SKR 1,640
La Chaumière	FFR 1890	FFR 1418	La Bonne Etape - RG	FFR 1430	FFR 1000	Leijonbrunn & Victory Hotel - RG	SKR 3,370 (weekdays)	SKR 2,530 (weekdays)
Château d'Audrieu	FFR 2140	FFR 1605	Hostellerie de Crillon le Brave	FFR 1580	FFR 1085		SKR 2,730 (weekends)	SKR 2,040 (weekends)
Hôtel de la Plage	FFR 1440	FFR 1080	Château de Montcaud	FFR 1580	FFR 1185	NORWAY		
Le Goyen	FFR 1700	FFR 1275	Le Vieux Castillon	FFR 1820	FFR 1365	Hotel Refines Gods	NKR 1,020	NKR 765
Château de Locquénol - RG	FFR 1496	FFR 1122	Hôtel Jules Cesar	FFR 1700	FFR 1275	GREAT BRITAIN		
Castel Clara	FFR 1475	FFR 1122	Auberge La Regalido	FFR 1850	FFR 1387	47 Park Street & Le Gavroche - RG	£568.00 (week)	£425.00 (week)
Le Bretagne et sa Résidence - RG	FFR 1800	FFR 1350	Le Prieuré	FFR 2100	FFR 1575	The Waterside Inn - RG	£319.00	£240.00
L'Auberge Bretonne - RG	FFR 2500	FFR 1875	Hostellerie Les Frénes	FFR 2360	FFR 1770	Le Manoir aux Quatre Saisons - RG	£458.60	£330.00
Castel Marie-Louise	FFR 1580	FFR 1185	Auberge des Naves	FFR 2040	FFR 1500	Hartwell House	£292.00	£219.00
Loire Valley			Le Mas des Herbes Blanches	FFR 1870	FFR 1410	Chewton Glen Hotel	£368.00	£276.00
Château de Noirieux	FFR 1650	FFR 1235	Domaine de Châteauneuf	FFR 1760	FFR 1300	Stock Hill Country House	£260.00	£180.00
Château de Marçay	FFR 1700	FFR 1275	Hôtel Les Roches	FFR 2190	FFR 1642	Summer Lodge	£225.00	£147.50
Jean Bardet - RG	FFR 2750	FFR 1925	Château de Trigance	FFR 1406	FFR 1055	Gidleigh Park	£365.00	£270.00
Les Hautes Roches	FFR 1665	FFR 1249	Château Saint-Martin	FFR 3990	FFR 2990	Longueville Manor	£231.00	£170.00
Château de Noizay	FFR 1520	FFR 1140	Le Cagnard	FFR 1710	FFR 1280	Ston Easton Park	£260.00	£195.00
Le Choleuil	FFR 1950	FFR 1460	Château de la Chèvre d'Or	FFR 3050	FFR 2280	Buckland Manor Hotel	£249.00	£186.00
Domaine des Hauts de Loire - RG	FFR 1900	FFR 1425	La Villa	FFR 1662	FFR 1247	Mallory Court	£265.00	£199.00
South West			BELGIUM			Hambledon Hall	£265.00	£199.00
Château de Curzay	FFR 1680	FFR 1245	Hostellerie Saint-Roch	BFR 10,000	BFR 7,500	Sharrow Bay Country House Hotel	£280.00	£210.00
Château de Nieul	FFR 1800	FFR 1350	HOLLAND			Farlam Hall	£210.00	£157.50
Domaine de Castel Novel	FFR 1820	FFR 1360	Kasteel Witten	HFL 450.00	HFL 337.50	Inverlochy Castle	£420.00	£315.00
Le Moulin de l'Abbaye	FFR 1630	FFR 1220	Prinses Juliana - RG	HFL 550.00	HFL 410.00	IRELAND		
Le Vieux Logis	FFR 1641	FFR 1230	Hotel Restaurant De Swaan	HFL 685.00	HFL 510.00	Park Hotel Kenmare	IR £ 334.00	IR £ 250.00
Château de Puy Robert	FFR 1500	FFR 1120	Landgoed Lauwolt	HFL 515.00	HFL 385.00	Sheen Falls Lodge	IR £ 311.00	IR £ 230.00
Château de la Treyne	FFR 1700	FFR 1190	SWITZERLAND			Longueville House	IR £ 204.00	IR £ 153.00
Château de Roumégouse	FFR 1500	FFR 1125	Hotel Splügenschloss	SFR 530.00	SFR 398.00	Dromoland Castle	IR £ 256.00	IR £ 192.00
Michel Bras - RG	FFR 2030	FFR 1520	Le Vieux Manoir au Lac	SFR 540.00	SFR 410.00	Ashford Castle	IR £ 256.00	IR £ 192.00
Château de Mercuès	FFR 1780	FFR 1335	Hostellerie du Débarcadère	SFR 440.00	SFR 330.00	Cashel House Hotel	IR £ 231.75	IR £ 173.00
Les Loges de l'Aubergade - RG	FFR 2500	FFR 1750	Hostellerie Alpenrose	SFR 440.00	SFR 330.00	Kildare Hotel & Country Club	IR £ 366.00	IR £ 275.00
Château Cordellian-Bages	FFR 1640	FFR 1230	Grand Hotel Park	SFR 640.00	SFR 480.00	Marfield House	IR £ 231.00	IR £ 173.00
Saint-James - RG	FFR 1570	FFR 1180	Hostellerie Du Pas de l'Ours	SFR 620.00	SFR 460.00	ITALY		
Hélène Darroze	FFR 1560	FFR 1080	Grandhotel Schöneck	SFR 458.00	SFR 344.00	Il Sole di Ranco - RG	LIT 600.000	LIT 450.000
Michel Guérard - Les Prés d'Eugénie - RG	FFR 2770	FFR 2080	Villa Principe Leopoldo	SFR 688.00 (weekend)	SFR 475.00 (weekend)	Hotel Dominik	LIT 416.000	LIT 312.000
Domaine de Bassibé	FFR 1280	FFR 960	Schlosshotel Chasté	SFR 360.00	SFR 270.00	Villa Cipriani	LIT 721.600	LIT 541.000
Les Pyrénées - RG	FFR 1500	FFR 1125	LIECHTENSTEIN			Hotel Cipriani & Palazzo Vendramin	LIT 1,200.000	LIT 840.000
Hostellerie des 7 Mollies	FFR 1300	FFR 975	Parkhotel Sonnenhof	SFR 470.00	SFR 355.00	Hotel Duchessa Isabella	LIT 600.000	LIT 450.000
La Réserve	FFR 1350	FFR 1000	GERMANY			Hotel Splendido	LIT 1,100.000	LIT 825.000
Domaine d'Aurillac	FFR 1340	FFR 1000	Hotel Stadt Hamburg	DM 620.00	DM 465.00	Hotel Locanda l'Elisa	LIT 644.000	LIT 483.000
Château de Riel	FFR 2000	FFR 1500	Hotel Brandenburger Hof	DM 525.00	DM 394.00	Hotel Regency	LIT 700.000	LIT 525.000
Château d'Adoménil	FFR 1850	FFR 1387	Bülow Residenz	DM 570.00	DM 430.00	Hotel Helvetia & Bristol	LIT 877.000	LIT 635.000
Alsace			Fürstentum Celle	DM 620.00	DM 465.00	Hotel Certosa di Maggiano	LIT 760.000	LIT 570.000
Hostellerie La Cheneaudière - RG	FFR 2180	FFR 1600	Hotel Schloss Wilkingherge	DM 445.00	DM 330.00	Il Pellicano	LIT 727.000	LIT 545.000
Château d'Isenbourg	FFR 1810 - 1620	FFR 1360 - 1215	Hotel Schloss Hugonpoet	DM 716.00	DM 537.00	Borgo Parafelios	LIT 600.000	LIT 450.000
Abbaye La Pommérie	FFR 2000	FFR 1450	Schlosshotel Lerbach - RG	DM 776.00	DM 580.00	La Posta Vecchia	LIT 950.000	LIT 700.000
Burgundy			Schlosshotel Kronberg	DM 950.00	DM 710.00	Hotel Lord Byron	LIT 700.000	LIT 525.000
La Côte Saint-Jacques - RG	FFR 2400	FFR 1790	Schloss Reinhartshausen	DM 668.00	DM 500.00	Il Melograno	LIT 510.000	LIT 380.000
L'Espérance - RG	FFR 1700	FFR 1275	Johann Laffer's Stromburg - RG	DM 1100.00	DM 825.00	SPAIN		
Château de Gilly	FFR 1770	FFR 1327	Pflaums Posthotel Pegnitz	DM 775.00	DM 550.00	Torre del Remei	PTA 56.426	PTA 42.320
Hostellerie de Levenois - RG	FFR 2300	FFR 1600	Schweizer Stuben - RG	DM 436.00	DM 325.00	Mas de Torrent	PTA 41.300 ('97)	PTA 30.975 ('97)
Château d'Igny	FFR 1750	FFR 1315	Landhotel der Schaffhof	DM 560.00	DM 420.00		PTA 44.940 ('98)	PTA 33.705 ('98)
Lyon Region			Weid & Schlosshotel - RG	DM 540.00	DM 405.00	<small>Prices quoted are for two people per night, per room, including breakfast, dinner, service charges and VAT. Details of closure dates and exception periods are included with your free guide.</small>		
Georges Blanc - RG	FFR 3500	FFR 2625	Mönch's Posthotel	DM 505.00	DM 378.00	<small>RG: Relais Gourmands</small>		
Alain Chapel - RG	FFR 2130	FFR 1595	Seehotel Siber	DM 640.00	DM 480.00			
Troisgros - RG	FFR 2930	FFR 2200	Alpenhof Murnau	DM 508.00	DM 380.00			



Tribute
to a car
that put
the family
on wheels

Page 10



Crunch
time for
Thrust
record
breakers

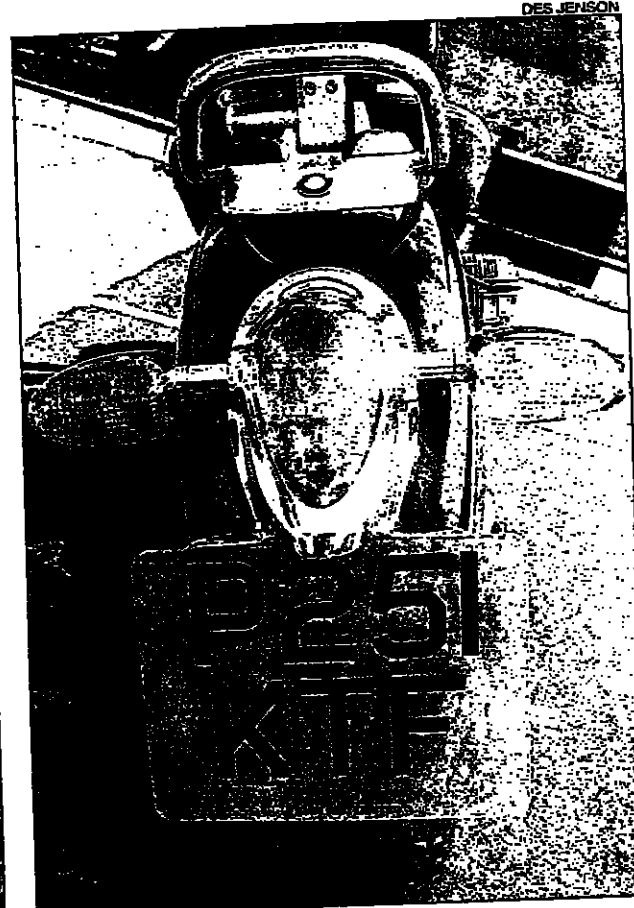
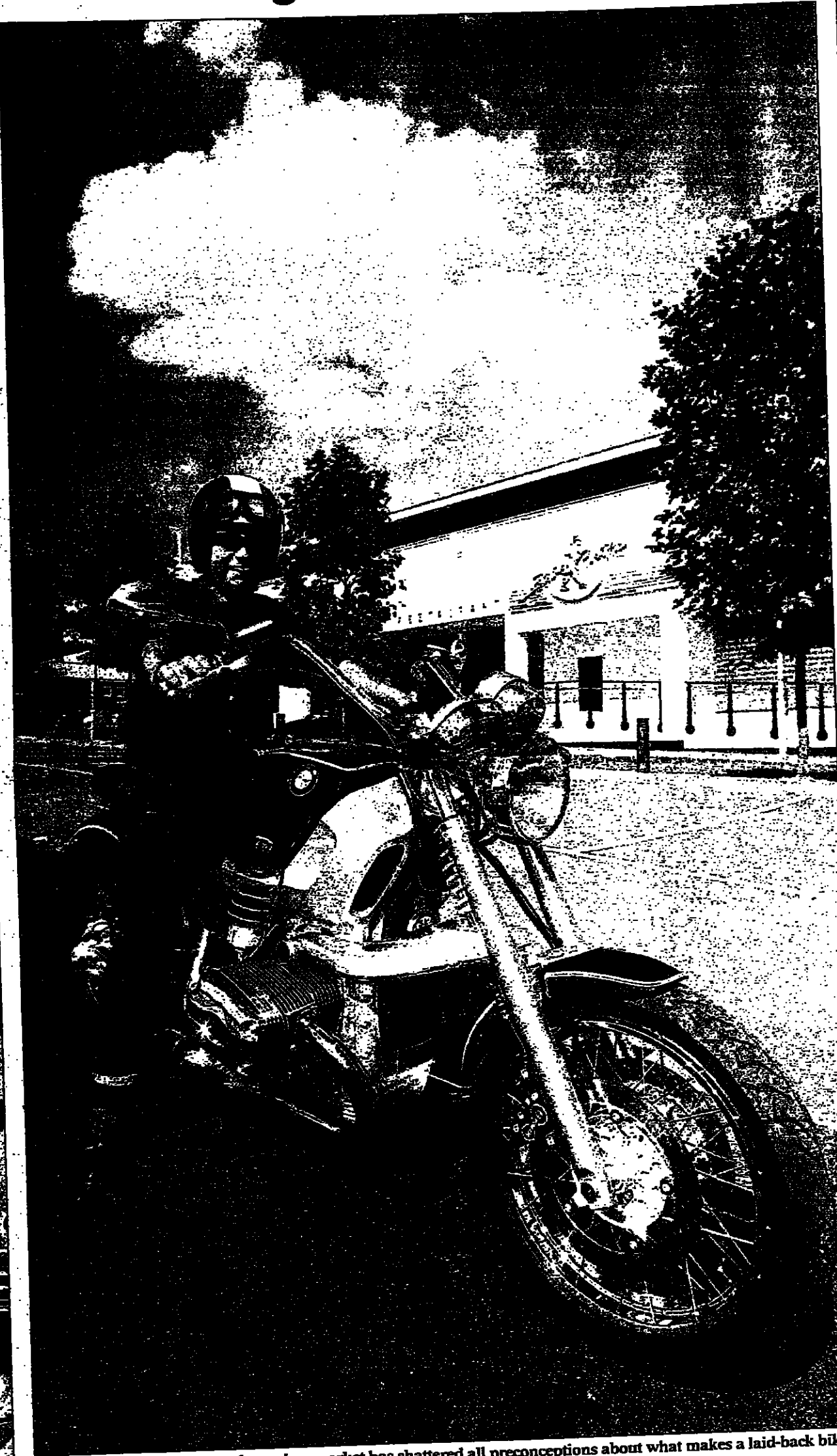
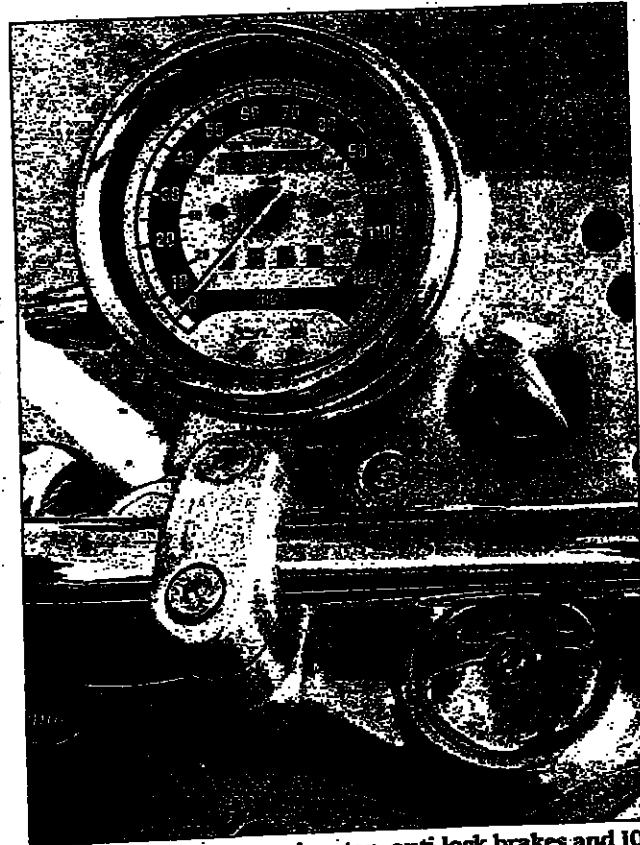
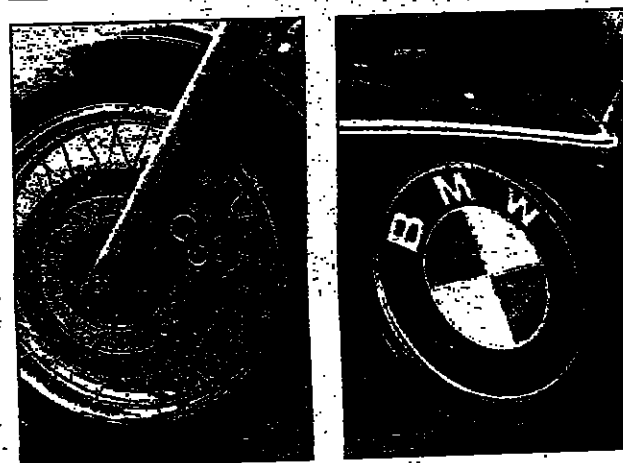
Page 12



SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997

John Naish rides the BMW R1200 C, a stunning combination of Bavarian tradition and state-of-the-art biking

On Germany's cruiser missile



Old BMW styling and Britain's fastest flip-up armchair

What had I done? The police car that had been shadowing me pulled alongside, steadily matching my pace. As the officer rolled his window down, I stopped feigning indifference and glanced over. "Now that's what I call a motorbike," he shouted. I smiled back — not a proud owner, just a relieved rider. After just two days riding BMW's new R1200 C cruiser, I should have been accustomed to that level of attention, nay adulation. Nothing on the road — let alone on two wheels — has styling to match. Grown men would step over a prostrate Spice Girl to get a better look. Teenagers shout and point. Couples in sports cars stop to ask about it. Drivers of executive cars mentally buy the bike from under you. And everyone has an opinion. Motorcyclists tend to be a conservative bunch, but almost all applauded its avant garde design. Even boy racers on Ducatis loved it. About the worst I heard was "Er, well, it's different," from a bemused Harley-Davidson rider. And different it surely is. BMW's entry to the fast-

BMW R1200 C
Engine: 1,170cc 61bhp electronically injected four-valve boxer twin, shaft-drive through five-speed gearbox.
Performance: 0-62mph, 5.8 seconds; top speed, 105mph.
Price: £9,750, plus approx £450 on-the-road charges.

mercifully laid waste another preconception surrounding cruisers — that they are all show and no go. This one does both. The 1,170cc motor is the biggest BMW has ever built: two huge pistons slug away beneath the expanse of fuel tank, but once on the move you might never know it. The horizontally opposed twin quickly smoothes down to a magic-carpet beat, silenced down to a gruff thrum by the super-effective stubby silencers. Only when you open it up in high gear from low revs does it shake the bike powerfully by its lapels — worth doing for the sheer hell of it. The power is all low down, with the motor tuned to produce only 61bhp, but it also

you hit the front anchor, leaving you to squeeze the powerful anti-lock brakes with near impunity.

Engine and chassis combine to make it one of the quickest bikes off the line I've ridden. The length keeps the front wheel down, the torque makes it nigh impossible to bog the engine. It's almost alarming how swiftly and easily the bike hits 30mph. Indeed, you have to watch it in town.

Power delivery is less spectacular further up the rev range — but it's just always strong, always there: you get a bit blasé, a bit laid back about it. Guess that's cruising.

I feel unbalanced at fast motorway speeds, but after 50 miles my arms and neck started to feel the strain. So I tried the backrest — deployed by flipping up the rear seat. It first struck me as an awful gimmick. But it works — suddenly you're enjoying Britain's fastest armchair.

A-roads, however, are where the R1200 C is at its best. Fun is a horribly prostituted word nowadays — appended to everything from breakfast cereals to casual footwear — but it's the right

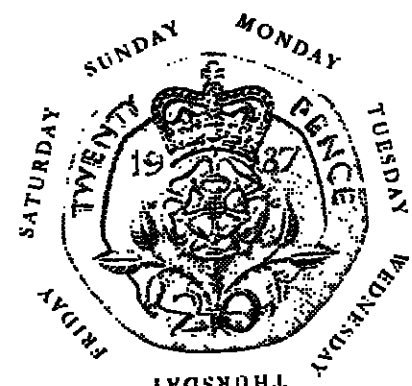
word for the cruiser. Paradoxically, those serious technical types at BMW wouldn't let a machine off the production line unless it handled, and while the low-slung footpegs and snug real-leather seat obviate any road-racing delinquency, it's hard to push the bike out of shape, despite its comfy-soft suspension.

Instead, it sweeps round bends surely on its Bridgestone tyres, footpegs lightly scraping on the Tarmac: it whooshes you down the straights, and the torque swoops you up the hillsides. It feels good, does you good, and lord, you know you look good. And all the while, somewhere in the back of your head, it all seems improbable.

Because in a sensible world, this bike would have stalled at the concept stage — built as a one-off to wow people at the motor shows. But it escaped on to the street as a practical proposition: one that comes with optional panniers for long-distance cruiser touring.

The fantasy-come-true element is key to this style of biking, and BMW has got it right... and we're offering one of these soulful machines as a CAR 97 competition prize: sadly, I'm not allowed to enter.

Secure your family's future
for less than 20p a day.



In an ideal world you will always be there for your family. But should the worst happen would they be able to cope without you?

For the monthly equivalent of 20p a day you can help safeguard your family's financial future.

Legal & General's Family Protection Plan will ensure that a lump sum is paid should you die or become eligible for terminal illness benefit during the term you select. It's easy to budget for as you only pay a premium for a fixed period of time, and the amount you pay each month saves the same.

For a quotation call the number below. Alternatively, contact your financial adviser.

FREE KIDS' UNBURY
where your application is received and first payment made.

FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE ON LOW COST COVER CALL FREE ON:

0500 33 66 66

QUOTING THE REFERENCE NUMBER 527/DL10.

Lowest rates apply from 1st April 1997. No money to pay and "Save to 10p per month" and "Savings for your protection" calls on this number will usually be received and handled immediately.

Further information on Legal & General products is available on our Website: <http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk>

*Not all shown, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the address below.

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General insurance group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSAO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products involving Legal & General's names.

Legal & General Direct Limited, Registered in England No 2707000. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3DF.



CONTEST: PAGE 5 / GRAND PRIX: PAGE 3

Motor caravan, Mini, motorbike, his and hers bicycles... these American tourists had their own, home-made integrated transport policy

But where were the rollerskates?

I had been fishing for a few hours off the beach at Slapton on the south Devon coast and was looking forward to a fish supper (always assuming I could find a fishmonger who was still open at that time of night). Slapton is a long beach with strong historical associations. It was here that American lives were lost during rehearsals for the D-Day landings.

There is a memorial to the men who died behind the beach, where there is also a large car park. I was lugging my fishing gear over the boulders at the back of the beach, heading back to the car, when the deep note of a very serious engine made me lift my head. An RV was pulling into the car park.

RV stands for recreational vehicle and is an American term which is fast spreading to this country.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

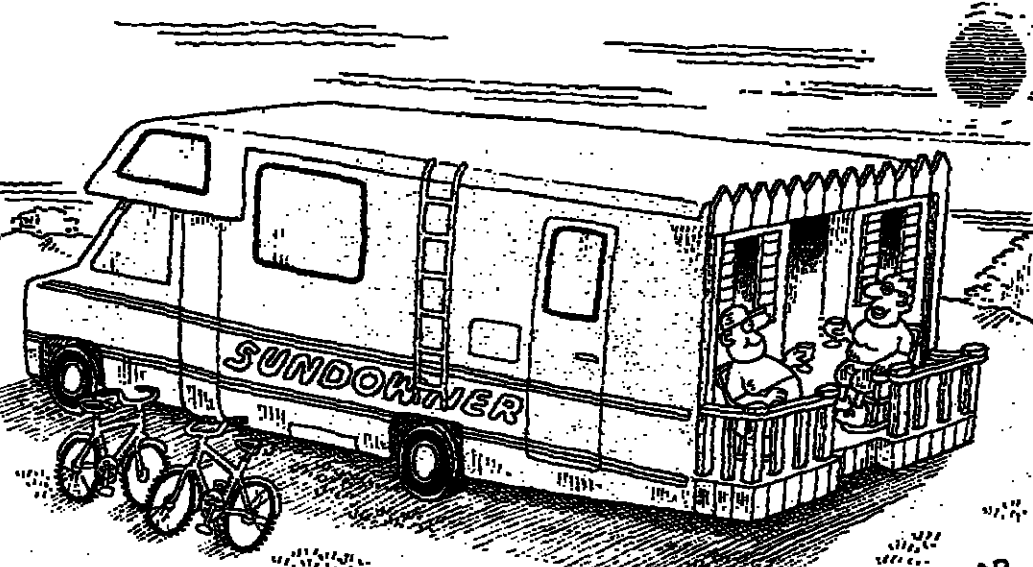


Peter Barnard

though we still tend to call these vehicles motor caravans. I am, as you know, not enamoured of the sort of caravans people tow behind cars, but motor caravans and RVs are another matter: these are proper vehicles, ones with self-sufficiency.

The point about the one that pulled into Slapton car park, as I discovered during a conversation with the owners, was that this vehicle incorporated nearly every form of transport one could ever need. The owners were an American couple and had come to Slapton because the father of one of them had been killed in the D-Day rehearsals.

I showed them the memorial and they showed me over the RV, which they called Bertha. It was not that large. I think about 20ft, but it was beautifully equipped. And Bertha had her own family. First there was an Austin Mini, which was towed behind. This gave the couple, who were retired and had been touring Europe for a couple of years, more flexibility for exploring the lanes of places like Devon.



whether they should sell the Mini, as this made the unit 10ft longer and in some ways doubled up with the motorcycle.

I told them to hang on to the Mini while they were in Britain and the talk as we parted was of selling the Mini when they moved on to southern Europe, where rain would be less of a problem. Aside from that little dilemma, the Americans had their own, home-made integrated transport policy.

And, apart from the RV itself, none of it cost all that much. Indeed, after buying the RV, the motorcycle, the bicycles and the Mini there had been enough left over to fund an itinerant lifestyle for as long as they wanted. Left over from what? Why, from the man's early retirement package. He had retired from... General Motors.

On Bertha's roof rested two bicycles, his and hers. Neither the man nor the woman liked cycling, but they used the bicycles at least twice a week for exercise. I thought this was very American. Who could imagine a British family lugging bicycles around a whole continent just to ensure they got some exercise?

Not that the couple were averse to fun on two wheels. Large brackets, on which rested a motorcycle, had been bolted just below the RV's rear window. I forget the details, but I doubt that it was in the class of the BMW Cruiser CAR 97 is giving away this week, but it was certainly a bike to get you from A to B in a hurry.

So when you added it all up, the couple had a travelling home, attached to a small saloon car, attached to two bicycles for exercise purposes, attached to a hefty motorcycle. And in case they became bored with land transport, they had a canoe strapped to the roof alongside the bicycles. Their only concern when I met them was

GOOD to see that British cars, the Jaguar XK8 and the Range Rover 4.0SE, topped the first security league table produced by *What Car?* magazine. But what an indictment of the industry in that of 72 cars tested, only eight met the Home Office criteria. I hope the makers of the other 64 will be shamed into taking action.

Jag lover finally has his dream

KEITH Pellen has been an enthusiastic driver since buying a second-hand Triumph TR2 more than 30 years ago — and he was more than delighted when he went to collect his new car last Saturday, writes Christina Asare Owusu.

For Mr Pellen from Theydon Bois, Essex, had won a Jaguar XK 150 after entering a competition in CAR 97 last month. He took his wife, Jean, to collect it from Garage on the Green, the specialist classic dealer in Fulham, London.

Mr Pellen, 53, a civil engineer, said he had always admired Jaguars and had wanted to own one for years, but the opportunity had never arisen.

The XK 150 with its 3.8-litre straight six engine was the ultimate development of Jaguar's first popular post-war sports car. It was the model which immediately preceded the ground-breaking and legendary E-Type.

"You can always tell when you are driving an old car. All the Jaguar cars which have come out are beautiful," he said.

Since that first TR2 he has driven a series of BMWs, a Land Rover Discovery and helped his son to build a replica AC Cobra. He drove the XK 150 home before retiring to the local pub to celebrate with a pint of Guinness.



Winner Keith Pellen and his Jaguar XK 150: "You can always tell when you are driving an old car and all Jaguar cars are beautiful"

SWISS ROLLS UP DRIVER'S TITLE



Alain Menu's Laguna on the way to his 11th victory

Alain Menu, the Swiss driver in his Williams Renault Laguna, who has dominated the season, wrapped up the 1997 British Touring Car Championship at Snetterton last weekend, even though there are still another six rounds to be raced. He scored his 11th race victory of the season to win the driver's title on his 34th birthday.

But the series is far from over for the Volvo team whose fortunes have been followed by CAR 97 readers. The cars prepared by TWR, whose other team Damon Hill's Arrows made such a tremendous impact at the Hungarian Grand Prix last week, are locked in battle for second place in the manufacturers' championship with reigning champions Audi and the fast-improving Honda team. Honda hold the spot now with 174 points against

Volvo's 163 and Audi's 162. Although the championship, Renault's 68-point lead now appears to be unassailable. The chase for the runners-up spot in the driver's championship is closer still. Volvo's lead driver, Rickard Rydell, is in fourth place only ten points behind Menu's team-mate Jason Plato and six behind reigning champion Frank Biela. At Snetterton he recorded two fifth places to stay well in the hunt for honours. Team-mate Kevin Burt failed to finish round 17 after a shunt with one of the Hondas, but managed eighth place in the second race of the day to add three points to his tally. He is now in tenth place in the driver's title race.

The next rounds will take place at the Thruxton circuit near Andover, Hampshire next weekend.

An unhealthy policy

Vaughan Freeman on how the Budget could hit your insurance premiums



Crash: hospitals can now claim back treatment costs

Motorists face higher premiums as insurers wake up to the impact that Labour's first Budget is about to have on their costs.

The Association of British Insurers believes the move will mean motorists involved in accidents will in effect be taxed twice for their hospital treatment, first through their taxes and again via their car insurance premiums.

Ironically, the nation's 25 million or so drivers breathed a collective sigh of relief when Chancellor Gordon Brown finally sat down having delivered his first Budget in July. At first glance, it seemed to have left them relatively unscathed. Brown had been expected to impose fresh financial penalties on drivers, particularly the company car driver, so the announcement of a mere 5% increase on the tax disc (which comes into effect in November), and a long anticipated 6 per cent hike in petrol and diesel fuel levies, meant most drivers felt they had escaped.

What few had noticed hidden away in the Budget was the announcement — the effects of which have only now been fully appreciated — that will cause the damage to premiums.

Regarding the National Health Service, Brown said: "We will also act to recoup in full the cost of treating road accidents from insurance companies. This, like the action we are taking against prescription fraud, shows our determination to ensure the NHS resources are focused on frontline care."

It means that hospitals and health centres in charge of their own budgets, will now find it far easier to claim back the costs of treating road accident victims from the motorist involved. The costs are recouped on a no-fault basis. For example, if an uninsured pedestrian steps straight out in front of a motorist who is driving within the speed limit and perfectly properly, the cost

of the pedestrian's treatment will be claimed back from the driver's insurance company.

The claim will not affect the driver's premiums directly, but long term the impact of more and more claims is certain to push premiums higher as insurance companies try to recoup their payments to the health service, says Sandy Dunn, managing director of the Touchline Insurance Company.

Hospitals can charge up to £2,949 for treating a road accident victim as an inpatient, up to £295 for outpatient care, and £21.30 for emergency treatment, including the cost of recovery by ambulance. Doctors called out to a road accident can also claim up to 41p per mile to cover their own motoring costs.

At present claims from hospitals and health centres to insurance companies are running at around £20 million a year, but that is expected to rise to up to £150 million a year in the wake of Brown's budget statement.

"Motorists who are already heavily taxed on and off the

road will simply end up paying an even higher levy to own a car," said Dunn. "This measure does not mirror the Government's principles only to increase taxes for those motorists who use their vehicles excessively. It will affect everyone."

"The industry has already had to raise premiums to meet the increasing cost of personal injury claims and to collect the rise in Insurance Premium Tax, which was increased from 2.5 to 4 per cent in April. Paying NHS charges will drive up motor insurance premiums even further and may lead motorists to compromise on the level of motor cover or, worse still, drive without insurance."

Suzanne Moore, spokesperson for the Association of British Insurers, said motorists now faced a double dose of tax, having already paid for hospital treatment through their tax, and again indirectly through the car insurance premiums.

Although the reclaim procedure had long been in place, Moore added that the Chancellor had now made the system far easier to use and that it was inevitable that more money would be claimed back from insurance firms: "It is something that is becoming more widely taken up as hospitals and health trusts dealing with their own budgets look for new ways of raising funds."

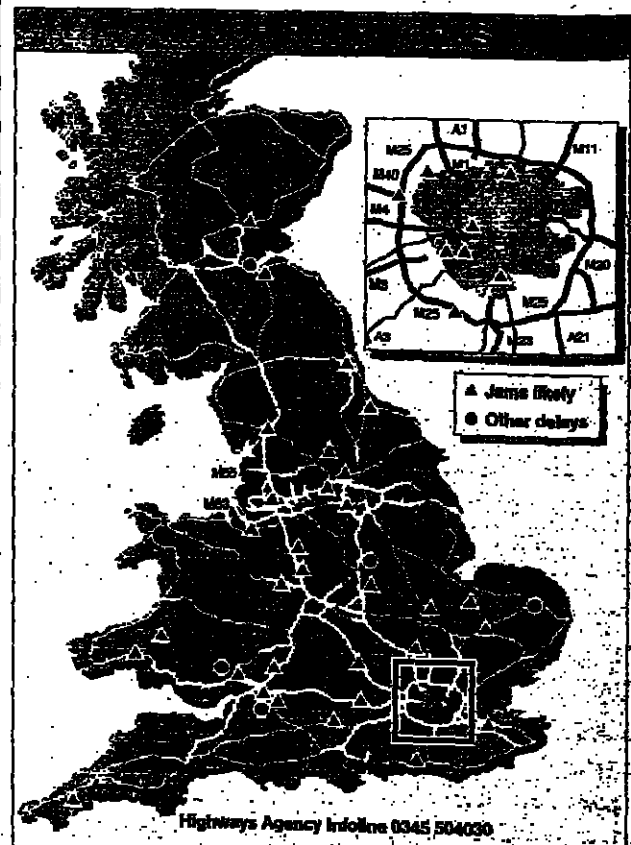
"If they all start claiming back these allowances it would bump up the amount that insurers were having to pay out, and if everything else remained equal that would push up claim costs and premiums to motorists."

The general advice for anyone about to renew their motor insurance is that they shop around as premiums can vary by hundreds of pounds. AA insurance spokesperson Becky Hadley said: "We would always advise motorists to shop around for the best quote. They might also try an insurance broker who will be able to find the lowest quote for them."

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
A306 Hemmersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.
A237 Manor Road, Wallington, single alternate traffic at the junction with Melbourn Road.
A312 Faggs Road, Feltham. Carriageway reduced to one lane each way due to long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, north of Staines Road, between Barn and 5pm.
Richmond Park between Kingston Gate and Ham gate, closed for roadworks.
● **SOUTH-EAST**
A34 Berkshire. Contraflow and narrow lanes with 40mph limit between M4 junction 13 and Newbury.
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. Temporary lights at junction with A340.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 14 (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A41 Watford. Eastbound lane closure on North Western Avenue from Hunton Bridge roundabout to Leavesdon Green Interchange.
A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.
M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.
M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.
A24 Farnham Bypass. Lane closure northbound between Quadrangle and Long Furlong.
● **SOUTH-WEST**
A38 Old Bedminster Bridge, Bedminster. Major roadworks with lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge with 50mph limit.
A432 Downend Road, Bristol. Temporary lights at junction with Coomes Hill and Strubbery Road.
A390 Cornwall. Lane restrictions in centre of Truro at the Trafalgar roundabout.
A417 Malsome Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.
● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A1 between Alconbury Hill and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with lane closures, contraflow and 50mph limit.
A134 Stroud, Norfolk. Roadworks at A122 junction.
A1074 Norwich. Narrow

lanes eastbound between Lackman Lane and Sweet Briar Road roundabout.
A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on Derby Road. Expect delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory roundabouts.
A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley Island.
M54 Shropshire. Contraflow with westbound traffic on the shoulder. Eastbound on to lanes 1 and 2 of westbound carriageway.
A50 Stoke on Trent. Major roadworks in the Mill area at junction with A520.
M6 Staffordshire. Contraflow between junctions 14 and 15.
A1101 Mildenhall, Suffolk. Closed at Kingsway between Lark Road and Kings Street.
● **NORTH**
A579 Warrington, Warwick link road closed.
M6 Cumbria. One lane closed both ways between junctions 36 and 37.
A58 Westborough, Greater Manchester. Closed southbound on Park Road between A6 and Cricketers Way, and between the Chequerbent Roundabout and Wade Lane.
A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.
A65 between Skipton and Settle at Conistone Cold, North Yorkshire. Temporary lights following bridge damage.
M1 South Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks with 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays expected on M1, M621 and A653.
A134 Tyne and Wear. Contraflow on Felling bypass.
M1 West Yorkshire. Junctions 43 to 42 Skipton to Lofthouse junction. Contraflow and 50mph limit.
M62 West Yorkshire. Contraflow and 50mph limit between junctions 28 and 29.
● **WALES**
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tanerdy.
A449 Monmouthshire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport with major roadworks in place.
A472 Torfaen. Contraflow at Pontypool.
A485 Carmarthenshire. Temporary lights at Ddar Villa, Llanybyther.
● **SCOTLAND**
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newbridge roundabout.
A720 Edinburgh city bypass. Contraflow between Lothianburn and Dregthorn. On and off-ramps at Dregthorn closed.
M90 Edinburgh, Perth and Kinross. Contraflow.



AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

WHEN PIERRE BOUGHT CHRYSLERS ENTIRE EUROPEAN OPERATION IN 1978 THEY PAID THE AMERICANS ONLY \$1

1940's RACING DRIVER ROBERT CONNELLS HAD THE WORLD'S FIRST SEX-CHANGE OPERATION

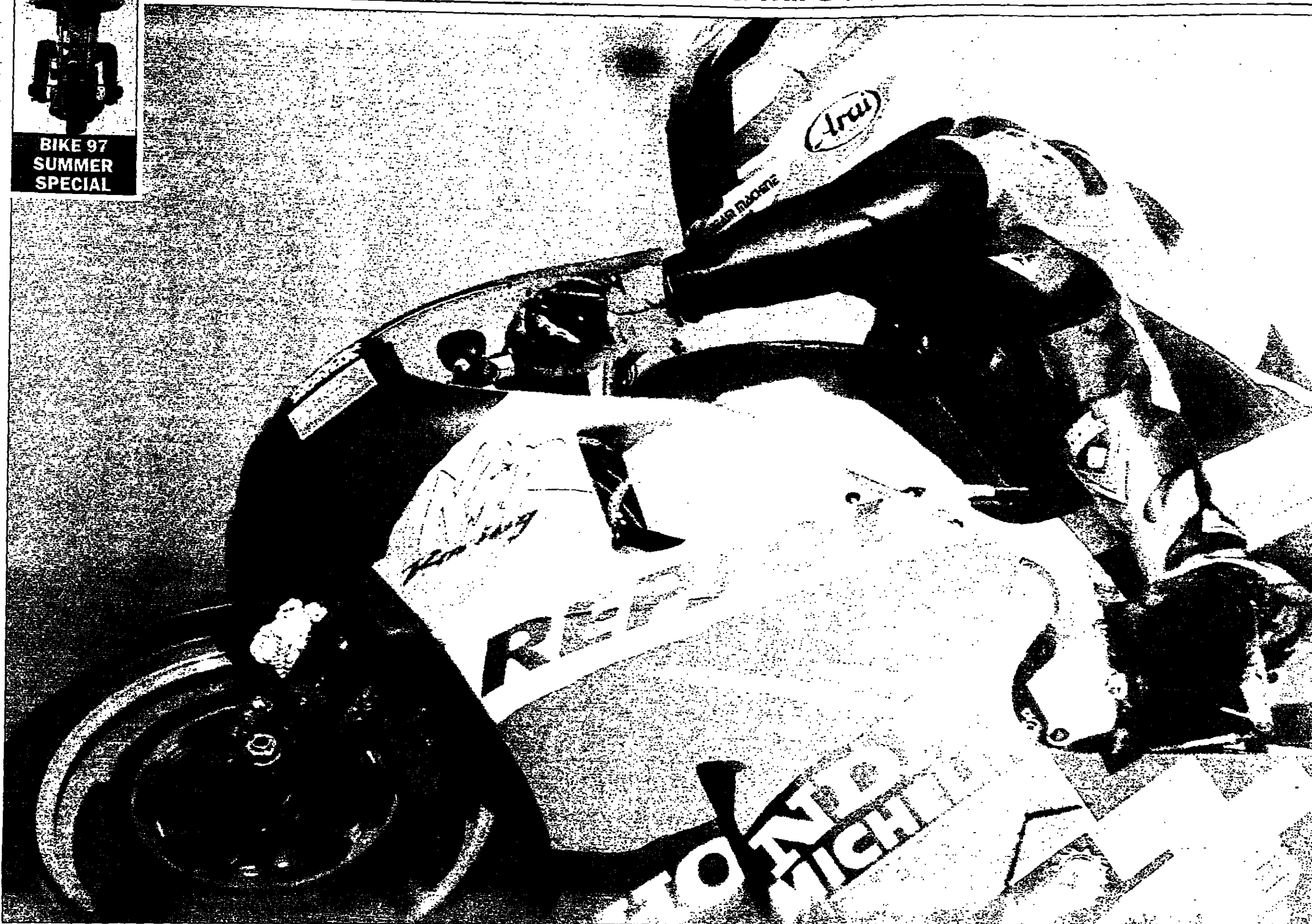
1996's THREE HIGHEST PAID SPORTSMEN WERE ALL MICHAELS — SCHUMACHER, TYSON AND JORDAN...

THE QUEEN LEANT TO DRIVE WHILE SERVING WITH THE WARTIME ATS



BIKE 97
SUMMER
SPECIAL

MOTORCYCLING MONTH: MAKING THE BIG TRIPS WITH BRITAIN'S LATEST PASSION



"To anyone but a handful of the world's best racers — none of whom can match the man who has won nine of this season's ten grands prix — the NSR is untameable"

So much power, it's frightening

Even at 150mph, this crazy motorbike keeps on accelerating with a violence and a noise that chill the blood. My body is being thrust back into the seat-hump by its force; the scream of two-stroke exhaust note rises and falls rapidly as my left foot tap-dances on the gearlever to keep the Honda NSR500 in its power band.

My arms are straining to hold the handlebars of this compact brute, trying to lift its front wheel off the track as it rockets towards its top speed of around 200mph.

To ride world champion Michael Doohan's Repsol Honda NSR500 is to enter a new, scary world of motorcycling. It doesn't matter how many fast bikes you've ridden before; taking the controls of the machine that Doohan will ride in tomorrow's 500cc Grand Prix at Donington Park is an experience like no other on two wheels.

You'd hardly think so to look at it. Apart from its world champion's No 1 plates and quartet of titanium exhaust pipes, the NSR looks remarkably similar to a roadgoing superbike such as Honda's CBR900RR FireBlade. It has a twin-beam aluminium frame

and single-shock rear suspension. Telescopic front forks hold a 17in wheel. Even under its carbon-fibre fairing, the NSR's 499cc V4 two-stroke engine, although unlike any roadgoing unit (partly because nothing similar would pass emissions tests), has carburetors instead of fuel-injection, and no traction control system to moderate its output.

But any apparent simplicity is misleading, for the NSR is a pure-bred, single-minded racing machine that has been refined over more than ten years into the fastest and most sophisticated motorcycle in the world. Honda is coy about precise figures, but the NSR produces close to 200bhp — far in excess of any roadster's output. Yet at just 130kg, this bike weighs less than a humble 125cc learner machine. Its chassis may look ordinary, but every component is built from exotic, lightweight materials and is the best that no money can buy.

In the hands of Australian ace Doohan, who needs only seventh place in tomorrow's race to secure his fourth consecutive 500cc world title, the NSR is a finely honed instrument that responds to every input — and even so, the

Riding world champion Michael Doohan's Honda is like no other experience, says Roland Brown

bike is constantly at the very edge of control.

Doohan brakes so hard that the rear wheel leaves the ground. In corners he routinely controls a front-wheel slide — a crash, in any normal rider's terminology — with his knee, by pushing down on to the track. He exits the bends with his front wheel lifting and his wildly spinning rear slick tyre painting a black rubber line on the Tarmac.

To anyone but a handful of the world's best racers — none of whom can match the man who has won nine of this season's ten grands prix — the NSR is untameable. Even the best get mauled. Alex Criville, Doohan's team-mate and the only man to beat him this year, crashed at Assen in Holland in June and was badly injured when his NSR landed on his hand. A fall at the same circuit in 1992 cost Doohan that year's championship, and very nearly his right leg — at one stage, surgeons considered amputation.

I was reminded of that as I climbed aboard the Repsol-liveried Honda in the pit lane of the Eastern Creek circuit in Australia. Doohan's injury prevents him using a conventional right-foot brake lever, and chief technician Jerry Burgess pointed out the bike's special handlebar brake lever, alongside the clutch lever.

A mechanic pushed me down the pit-lane. I let out the clutch, the motor came to life with a rasping two-stroke exhaust crackle, and I headed out on to the unfamiliar circuit.

The great irony of the NSR500 is that it isn't difficult to ride at all. A dozen years or more ago, grand prix motorbikes were fussy, demanding creatures whose engines barely ran outside their narrow power bands. But as I negotiated a cautious first lap, it became clear that the lightweight Honda's forgiving handling was matched by the flexibility of its motor. From below 8,000rpm the NSR

pulled as hard as the fastest road bike, the power smooth and controllable.

But you don't ride an NSR500 like that — and a lap later, coming on to the downhill main straight, I opened the throttle properly. Suddenly the sleeping beast awakened and went on the rampage. The real power lies between 10,000 and 12,000rpm, and at such revs the NSR isn't like a road bike at all. In third gear at over 100mph, the front wheel snapped off the ground, then did the same thing in fourth as I held the throttle wide open and changed up through the semi-automatic gearbox, which cuts the ignition momentarily.

As the straight disappeared in seconds, it was as much as I could do to hold on and pull myself forward to keep some weight over the front wheel. There was no room to approach the NSR's 200mph top speed, but I was travelling at over 180mph before braking for the next bend. And if the NSR's acceleration was fearsome, the stopping power provided by its carbon-fibre discs and Michelin front slick tyre (I ignored both rear

brake levers, thanks) was no less so. The Honda threw so much weight on my arms that I was reminded why Doohan's upper-body strength is legendary even among his rivals.

In the bends the NSR's control, balance and ease of steering was almost surreal; certainly, no road bike will feel up to standard again. No matter how hard I tried — and I was cornering fast enough to wear out a fair bit of knee-scraper — the NSR refused even to twitch. Its rigid frame and state-of-the-art suspension simply allowed the bike to react perfectly to every rider command.

Doohan, of course, rides so hard that the bike is bucking around on every lap, as he slides the rear tyre to get maximum drive on to the next straight. "Keep the revs above 10,000rpm," he had warned. "If it spins at 8,000rpm, you'll be over the bars for sure."

But such heroics are for the chosen few only. For anyone else, riding the NSR500 is a humbling experience. My handful of laps over, I cruised back to the pits — stunned by the Honda's speed, but with no more idea than before of what the world's finest racebike is like at its limit.



Brown with Jerry Burgess, Doohan's chief technician

REPSOL HONDA NSR500

Engine: 110-degree V4, 2-stroke, 499cc produces approx 195bhp at 12,000rpm.

Transmission: Six-speed gearbox. Chain final drive.

Performance: 0-60mph, approx two secs; max, 200mph.

Price: Not for sale. For selected factory riders only.

Mike's very quick one for the road

Vaughan Freeman meets the speed record breaker with numberplates (but no mirrors)

Think of the motorway speed limit, triple it, add a bit more, and you're getting close to the speeds Mike Grainger reaches on his awesome street-legal motorcycle.

Mike's bike might look like an out-of-the-shop standard Kawasaki, and around Devon he can be seen burbling around on it to and from work. Yet this is a motorcycle that has been timed at 223mph flat out, and has just broken the British and European land speed records for machines in its class.

For the record-breaking attempt Mike took his Kawasaki ZZ-R1100 to the Elvington airfield near York. Taking a somewhat eccentric approach to his record-breaking, he made just one concession to travelling at light aircraft speeds — he removed the mirrors.

As he hurtled down the runway, Mike reached 212mph, with an average speed for the record of 209.05mph, measured with a flying start over two quarter-mile sprints.

Only a strong cross-wind he says prevented him adding an extra 15mph, but it was more than enough to give him the Category A1 national record for solo machines up to 1300cc, plus the European record.

Mike, 46, started his motorcycling career in 1966 on a BSA 250cc that cost him £15; on a good day he aspired to 65mph. Back then motorcycling meant Mods and Rockers, Triumphs and Nortons, black leather, white silk scarves, and woolly fishermen's socks rolled over the boot tops. For any motorcyclist of the times "Doing the ton" was the ultimate dream. A "double ton" was pure science fiction.

Some 30 years later Mike, who runs GT Motorcycles, with outlets in Torbay and Plymouth, turned fiction into fact with his Kawasaki. Even in

ordinary form the ZZ-R1100 is an impressive 1,050cc machine, capable of 174mph and costing £10,000. Of his beefed-up 1,100cc version, he says: "The motorcycle is a fairly standard ZZ-R1100, except that I have fuel injected it, and put on a turbo charger which has taken the power to something like 350bhp on the rear wheel. Given all the development work we have done on it, it is probably worth around £20,000."

"It is still very much a road bike and still very usable. I ride it around town, although at under 30mph the engine runs a little unevenly and is slightly hesitant, but once it is rolling is fine."

"It is fast though. If you try a standing quarter of a mile on it your front wheel will still be off the ground at the end of the run through the

acceleration. It will go from 0 to 60mph in under two seconds, and travel the length of a football pitch in less than a second."

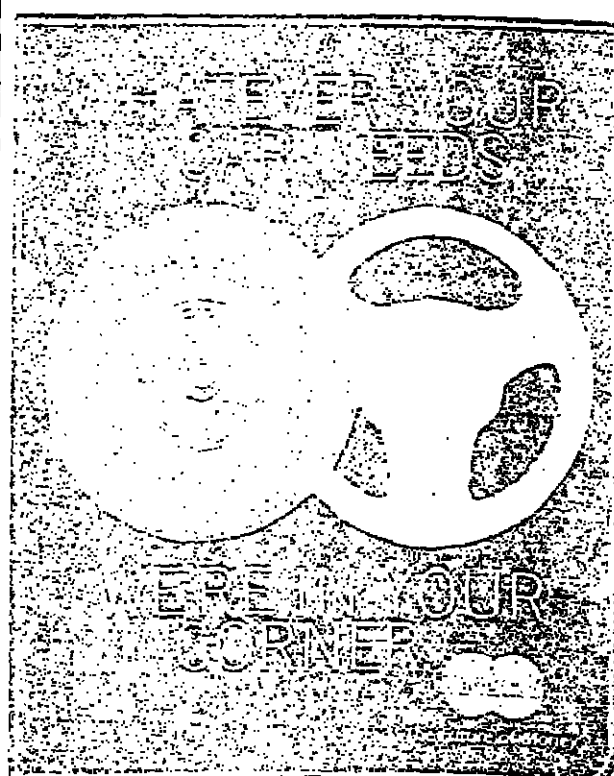
His other records include that for a 900cc production machine with a "flying start" 162.44mph over one kilometre, and the production machine record for a 900cc, with a standing start over one mile, returning an average speed of 125.68mph, both done on Kawasakis.

What has proved so satisfying about his latest record is that it was set not on a purposely designed out-and-out racing or dragster-type motorcycle, but on a standard road-going machine, complete with numberplate, lights and indicators.

What does his wife, Sue, make of it all? "I think she has got used to it. The record attempt was a bit risky, but not a lot more dangerous than riding on the road. Things can go wrong anytime, but I check the bike carefully before every run. It is risky, but so is walking across the road."



High standard: Mike's ZZ-R1100

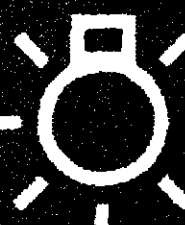


AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

IF YOU CANNOT FIND THE VEHICLE YOU DESIRE CONTACT YOUR AUTHORISED DEALER LISTED BELOW

Alfa Romeo
HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd
 145-147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 1001, 1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011, 1013, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1023, 1025, 1027, 1029, 1031, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1045, 1047, 1049, 1051, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1537, 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547, 1549, 1551, 1553, 1555, 1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609

**BMW AUTHORISED
DEALERS**



We now sell Approved Used BMWs over 5 years old. Another bright idea. BMW has just extended its Approved Used Car programme. The package includes a comprehensive vehicle check, a tailored 6-month warranty and 6 months' membership of BMW's Emergency Service. Call your local dealer and he'll shed more light. Brilliant.

For more information contact 0800 325600, www.bmw.co.uk or your local dealer.

Approved Used Cars

[illegible]

For the widest Choice of Approved Used BMWs inside the M25

927 5000 A Mercedes-Benz 190d Ltr	£24,995
977 5000 A 640i Delivered Ltr, W/Spec	£28,995
967 5000 A 640i Silver Leather	£18,495
967 5000 A 640i Silver Ltr, W/Spec	£43,995
950 5000 A 640i Silver Ltr, W/Spec	£45,995
950 5000 A Cayenne/White Leather	£21,995
950 5000 A Cayenne/White Leather	£26,995
977 700i A, Delivered R/Ltr, W/Spec	£31,995
977 700i A W/ Mercedes-Benz Ltr, C/Alloys	£43,995
950 700i A 640i Silver Ltr, W/Spec	£32,995
950 700i A 640i Silver Ltr, W/Spec	£32,995
950 700i A 640i Silver Ltr, W/Spec	£32,995
950 700i A 640i Silver Ltr, W/Spec	£32,995
950 700i A 640i Silver Ltr, W/Spec	£32,995

940 730i A V8 3000cc 24v Ltr	£35,995
940 730i A V8 3000cc 24v Ltr, W/Spec	£39,995
977 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
977 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£33,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£33,995
977 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
977 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
977 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
977 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
977 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995

950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995

950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995

950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995

950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995
950 720i A Arctic Grey Ltr, W/Spec	£34,995

Ruislip Stanmore

850100

Temple Fortune

Watford

Cotswold

95P 520i SE Aubergine, Alloys, Air Con, 14K	£28,995
95M 525i ASE Cayenne Red, Alloys, ESR, FLights, 26K	£20,495
95M 525i ASE Arctic Grey, Alloys, ESR, FLights, 30K	£19,995
95M 520i ASE Arctic Grey, Alloys, 36K	£17,495
95M 518i SE Arctic Silver, Alloys, 32K	£18,495
96M 530i Evo Estani Blue, Auto AC, Burr Wood, 11K	£38,995
94M 530i Aves Blue, AC, Hall Leather, 28K	£29,995
95M 328i Con Montreal Green, Ltr, Aztec Alloys, 18K	£31,995
95M 328i Con Bordeaux Blue, Ltr, Aztec Alloys, 42K	£28,995
95M 328i Con Arctic Silver, ESR, Alloys, C/Temp, 3K	£27,995
95M 318i Boston Green, Classic Alloys, E/Hand, 20K	£22,995
95P 318i A Tour Morea Green, ESR, R/Ls, 10K	£18,995
95P 318i TDS Tour Arctic Silver, ESR, R/Ls, 7K	£18,495
94M 318i S Cpe Montreal Blue, ESR, Alloys, F/Col, 22K	£17,995
94M 318i S Cpe Bright Red, ESR, Alloys, R/Spol, 30K	£18,495
95P 318i Cpe Boston Green, ESR, PDC, CD, 12K	£18,495
95P 318i SE Alpine White, ESR, Alloys, FLights, 6K	£17,995

ORBIKES

The Ultimate Riding Machine

For more information please call 0800 325600 or visit <http://www.bmw.co.uk>



FINANCE

- Ask about our 50/50 deal
- 4 & 5 year finance
- and our formula option plan


OPEN MON-SAT 9-6.30pm

SUNDAYS 12-4pm

86-90 Eastbank Street, Southport, Merseyside
Tel: 01704 536192 Fax: 01704 534074

PROPHETS GERRARDS CROSS

BMW MOTORCYCLES

We buy and sell new and used motorcycles ✓

Full parts and service facilities ✓

Free collection and delivery service ✓

Free loan bike when available ✓

Mondial recovery ✓

BMW insurance, assistance and assistance ✓

OPENING HOURS:
Monday-Friday 8am-6pm,
Saturday 9am-5pm

Tel: 01753 899606 Fax: 01753 889904
44 Oak End Way, Garrafs Cross, Buckinghamshire SL9 6ES

Rainbow

For BMW Motorcycles

in
South Yorkshire

160 Broad Oaks - Sheffield - S9 3HJ
Tel 0114 261 8866 - Fax 0114 261 1114
www.rainbow.co.uk

Cooper Reading

Ladies Day

Sunday 8th June
10am - 4pm

- Test Rides
- Training Discussions
- Displays
- Clothing Range

Norfolk Meadows Road, Reading

0118 956 3707

RGS MOTORCYCLES

THE UK'S NO 1 BMW DEALER



**SPECIAL CRUISER LAUNCH PREVIEW BY INVITATION ONLY -
RING NOW FOR YOUR INVITATION.**

*FREE COLLECTION WHEN SERVICING TRIPS IN LONDON AREA *CASH BIKES AVAILABLE *

*HIRE AVAILABLE *PLATE STOCK OF NEW & USED BIKES *ALSO CULINARY ACCESSORIES & PARTS *

134 - 142 TOTTING HIGH STREET • LONDON • SW17 0RT
020 8960 163 277
mon - fri 8.30 - 5.30 weekend motorbikes & clothing

Now on the internet: www.rgs.co.uk

THE ULTIMATE DEALERSHIP

NEW & USED MOTORCYCLES • ACCESSORIES
• PARTS • SERVICING • INSURANCE • FINANCE

BMW gold award, 1996. The
winner of the award. **PRICE** All tax
levies, 50000, 0174, 584 584

BMW

SCHEME

PHONE

01203 559666

Barchetta

HUGHENDEN

M40



**OXFORDSHIRE'S
ONLY BMW DEALER**

TEL: 01844 27970

**JUST OFF JUNG 7 OF
THE M40**

**MILTON COMMON
OXFORD OX9 2NU**

BMW BIKES
NEW AND USED
SALES, SERVICE
AND PARTS




John Clark
Rutherford Road
Dryburgh Estate DUNDEE


DEVON
'everything but new'
JAMES SHERLOCK
01769 574350
3 CROOKS CROSS
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
COLETON, DEVON


**THE ONE STOP SHOP FOR
BMW SALES SERVICE AND
ACCESSORIES.**
WE RIDE AND RECOMMEND
BMW FOR QUALITY, RELIABILITY
AND VALUE.
LARGE STOCK OF NEW AND
USED MACHINES.
NEW CLOTHING AND
ACCESSORIES DEPARTMENT
OPENED NOW.

**BMW
DEalership**



382-394 Hinchey Rd.
Aurora, IL 60005


**SLOCOMBE'S
MOTORCYCLES**
46-52 DUDDEN
HILL LANE
LONDON
NW10 1DG.
PHONE 0181 830 100
BMW SALES

Prestige 

***SOUTH EAST LONDON'S
ONLY DEALER***

**HUGE SELECTION OF USED.
ALL MODELS FROM STOCK.**


**COLLECTION/DELIVERY AVAILABLE
FREE LOAN BIKE TO SERVICE CUSTOMERS**

**CHAMPAGNE TOUR
- BOOK NOW**

**20 MINS FROM CITY
10 MINS FROM DARTFORD TUNNEL**

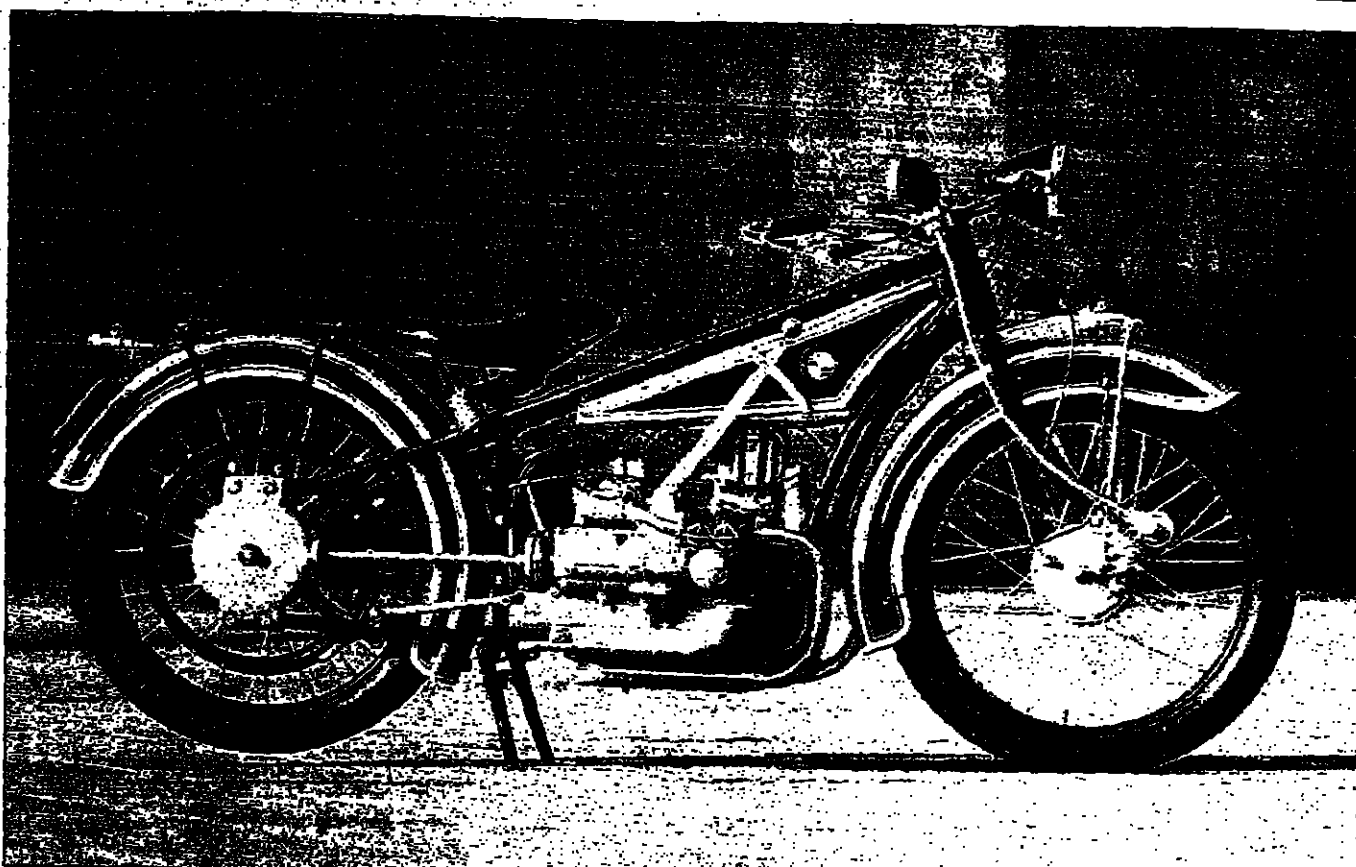
**TEL: 0181 303 3030
300 BROADWAY, BEXLEYHEATH**

WALL Wollaston
Motorcycles



The No.1 Dealership in the Midlands
SUN VALLEY, NEEDESBURG - 2150 W. - MUSKOGEE - MIAMI

**LARGE SELECTION OF NEW & USED MACHINES
SERVICING OF ALL MAKES OF BIKES
PARTS, ACCESSORIES & CLOTHING
WANTED, USED BIKES, TOP PRICES PAID**
Contact Richard Higgs or Steve Attkid
(01604) 282000
St Peter's Way, Northampton



With the R32, designed by former Daimler engineer Max Friz in 1922, the BMW layout was born and lives on in the R1200 C

Champion boxer at 75

Classic motorcycle engines have a habit of sticking around: Harley-Davidson has its long-serving in-line V-twin, Moto Guzzi traditionally uses a V-twin mounted across the frame—and BMW has the famous two-cylinder boxer. It's the motor that founded the BMW motorcycling tradition, the one they use on their superbikes today, and is also the cornerstone of the German vehicle-builder. For BMW's first motorcycle made its world debut in October 1923 at the Paris Motor Show, some five years before the Bavarian manufacturer ever built a car.

BMW built bikes before cars. John Naish looks at how the Treaty of Versailles began a distinguished history

only fitted to Nuremberg bike-maker Victoria's machines. When Victoria stopped making bikes, BMW decided to build its own, and in 1922, former Daimler engineer Max Friz was charged with designing BMW's first bike. Thus, 75 years ago, the classic BMW layout was born. Victoria had placed the engine lengthways across the frame, but Friz turned it around, so that the cylinders stuck out on both sides in the cooling air. And because the crankshaft now ran down the length of the frame, Friz was able to equip the new bike, the R32, with a relatively straightforward shaft-drive system. The same configuration is at the heart of the new R1200 C cruiser we are giving away, as

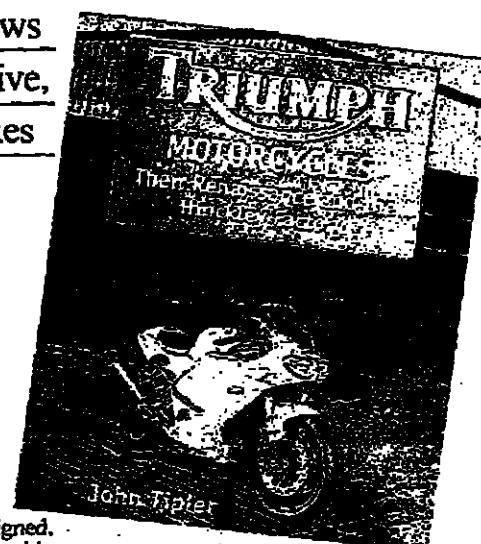
well as the rest of BMW's range of high-performance boxer twins—but they've had the benefit of more than seven decades' development. Back at the Paris Motor Show, however, public reaction to the new German design was mixed. Some feared that the engine's cylinders would inevitably become damaged in an accident. Others criticised the low power output—only 8.5bhp (The R1200 C's detuned engine, by comparison, puts out 61bhp). Nevertheless, the R32 was strong on torque. The design's low centre of gravity meant it was stable at its 56mph top speed, and the marque won a reputation for reliability that

justified the high price: the R32 sold 3,000 units by 1926. The boxer was soon to shake off its reputation for low power. In 1929, BMW broke the world motorcycle speed record using a supercharged 750cc engine to reach 134mph. And in 1937, a supercharged 500cc machine hit 173mph, a record that was to last for 14 years. Racetrack successes were being racked up, too, with BMW scooping both the European Championship and the Isle of Man TT in 1938. The Second World War left BMW starting from scratch. Initially, the Allies only let the firm build single-cylinder bikes: the world had to wait until 1950 for another 500cc boxer twin. While the company looked set for an immedi-

ate renaissance, with the 1954 sports-oriented RS achieving 125mph performance, the motorcycle market slumped in the 1960s, with only 4,700 motorcycles being built in 1969. The slide was reversed in the 1970s, with classic models such as the luxurious and expensive R90S—still with the boxer motor—firmly establishing BMW as a top-marque for touring. But 1983 saw the introduction of an in-line four-cylinder range, followed by in-line three-cylinder machines in 1986. That was not the end of the boxers: instead the configuration was completely overhauled in 1993, with a new four-valve engine with electronic ignition and combined oil/air cooling. The boxer fights on, and it's still a winner: this year 60 per cent of BMW's motorcycle sales came powered by that familiar twin-cylinder layout.

This is the house that John built

Michael Jackson reviews a new, somewhat selective, history of Triumph bikes



Books about Triumph contain the potential to stir the emotions more profoundly than those about their contemporaries; even more so, surprisingly, than the equally ubiquitous raft of Harley Davidson publications. Thus I was eagerly anticipating an emotional stir from John Tipler's *Triumph Motorcycles: Their Renaissance and the Hinckley Factory*, the first hardback covering the remarkable 12-year reconstruction by John Bloor, an enigmatic Staffordshire housebuilder. In little more than a decade not only has he designed, developed, and produced an acceptably modern large capacity modular range of motorcycles, he has shoehorned them into the world marketplace alongside Honda, Harley, BMW, Ducati et al. And all sans Government subsidy, City venture capital or advice from Harvey-Jones.

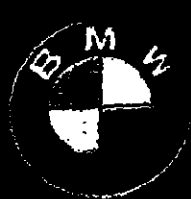
Tipler's tale: conscientiously told, but somehow it fails to stir the emotions

Triumph's manufacturing processes and final model specifications are assiduously chronicled. The lavishly equipped factory is predominantly staffed by thirtysomethings and the whole complex is unquestionably "buzzing". But Tipler, somehow, just fails to stir the emotions. Triumph extended its co-operation and he spent requisite time observing/reporting upon the sophisticated production infrastructure. Conscientiously written, then, but composed more in the style of an articulate editor of an owners' club magazine than, say, Iacocca's opus on Chrysler. The two burning questions are the firm's bottom line, and Bloor's motivation. Sadly, neither are addressed. In the opening two chapters many of the ingredients of the company's colourful past are adeptly condensed, and with fair accuracy, since the original Triumphs first stirred on to the streets of Coventry in 1902. Consider this soupcon of historical ingredients: Between the wars J.Y. Sangster buys Triumph, giving Edward Turner, mercurial MD/chief designer, a free hand to design the groundbreaking 500cc Speed Twin in 1938. Postwar, Turner creates the Thunderbird and Bonneville, but, following Sir Bernard Ducker's dramatic departure from BSA, an enforced linking with the Birmingham Small Arms colossus begins to sow the seeds of destruction. Meanwhile, Marlon Brando, the

Metropolitan Police, Elvis Presley, Steve McQueen, Lord Snowdon—the list goes on—all endorse the product they ride. Triumph gains the land speed record in Utah at 214mph, then scoops the prestigious Daytona 200 several times. Later, a muddled Department of Trade and Industry partly underwrites a "takeover" by a barely rejuvenated Norton Villiers, which, unwittingly, hammers more nails into all the residual British motorcycle coffins. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Lord Stokes, and Geoffrey Robinson pledge themselves to a workers' cooperative venture to keep Triumph in the market, but in 1983 it expires, RIP. Such was the "provenance" Bloor purchased. A communication blackout ensued for the next six years while the umbilical link with traditional Triumph "baggage" was severed. This sensible move allowed the embryonic company an uncluttered run-up to the global launch of the all-new range of seriously oil-proof multis at the Cologne Show in 1990. A seamless momentum began. Given Triumph's almost Teutonic obsession with "doing it right, from scratch", one ponders the product to which it aspires beyond the millennium? Ultimately, of course, John Bloor could evolve into as successful a maker of motorcycles as he is a builder of houses. That will be the moment for the definitive book on the subject. The writer was Director, Norton Triumph Europe 1973-76. *Crowood Auto Classic, £19.95.

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

WIN A BMW CRUISER WORTH OVER £10,000



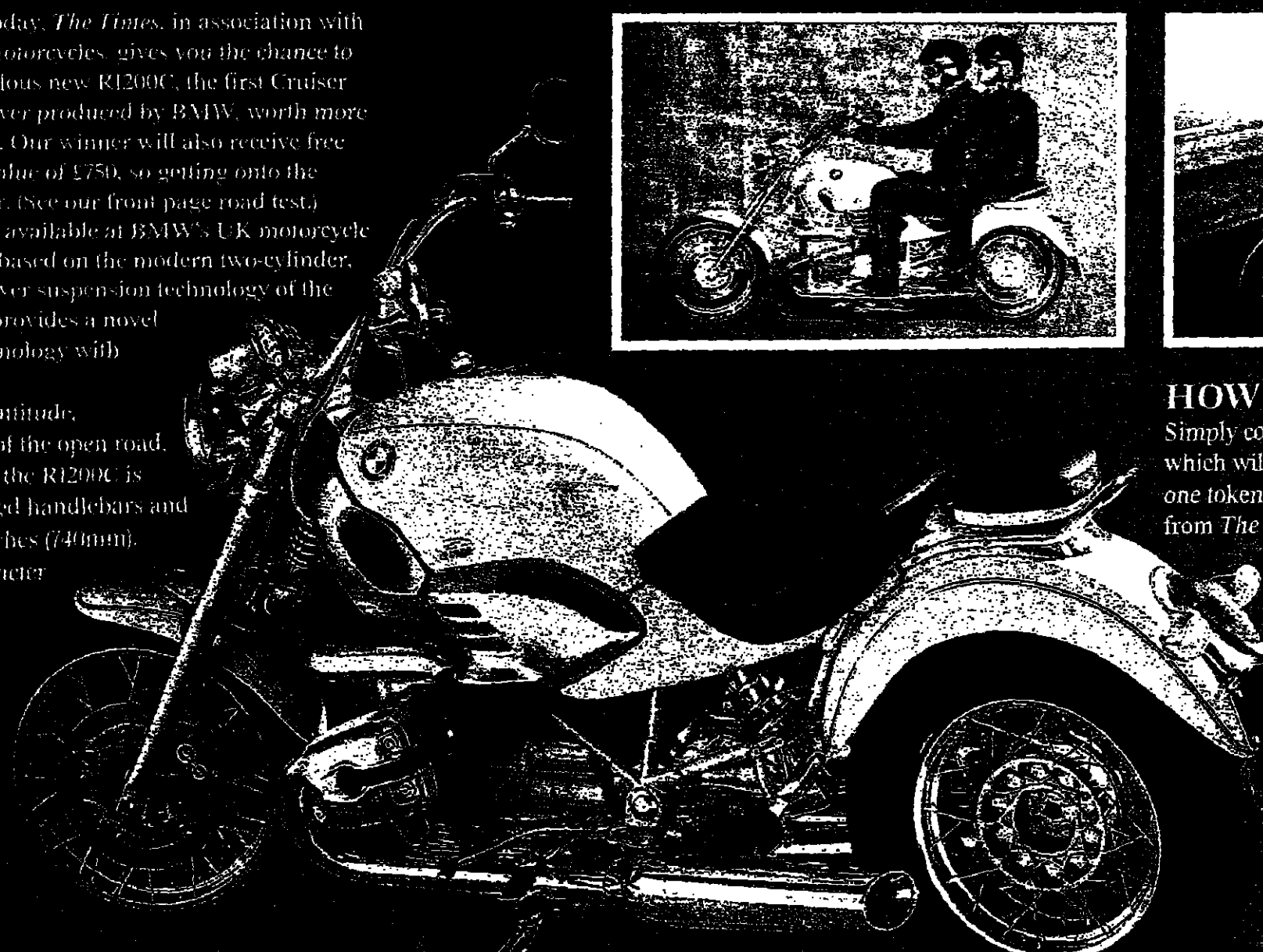
Starting today, *The Times*, in association with BMW Motorcycles, gives you the chance to win the fabulous new R1200C, the first Cruiser motorcycle ever produced by BMW, worth more than £10,000. Our winner will also receive free BMW Insurance up to the value of £750, so getting onto the open road will be even easier. (See our front page road test.)

The stylish Cruiser will be available at BMW's UK motorcycle dealers this September. It is based on the modern two-cylinder, four-valve engine and Telelever suspension technology of the new Boxer generation, and provides a novel mixture of leading edge technology with distinctive Cruiser design.

It is a bike with style and attitude, designed to give you a taste of the open road. The laid-back appearance of the R1200C is emphasised by the high, raked handlebars and the low seat height of 29.1 inches (740mm).

Reflecting the typical character of a cruiser, the larger 1170cc flat twin Boxer engine has been designed to produce extra torque at low speeds, rather than for maximum power.

And that is not all. BMW has also launched a whole new range of fashionable clothing and accessories to go with it.



HOW TO ENTER

Simply collect four of the seven tokens which will appear in *The Times* this week, or one token from *The Sunday Times* and three from *The Times*, and send them with the prize draw entry form which will be published next Wednesday.

The closing date for receipt of entries is Monday September 8, 1997. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd rules apply.

No purchase necessary. Send a stamp, see for tokens and an entry form, to be received no later than August 29. Token Request: BMW Competition, P.O. Box 5079, Leighton Buzzard MK17 7CA. Three tokens per Soc are allowed.



COLLECT ANOTHER TOKEN IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW

THE TIMES

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS



Both the Lanos, left, and the Nubira contain much input from Daewoo's blossoming engineering facilities and some famous consultants, but do not spring clear into the late Nineties. They are interim ranges, evidence of what might be to come

Daewoo plays it safe for the second generation

The Korean carmaker will still need direct selling and customer extras for its new models, says Ian Morton, while we wait to discover how much it can really achieve

Family members come in all sizes

Daewoo makes no secret of its ambition to be among the world's top ten by the millennium with annual sales of two million cars. And now the company has revealed the strategy at the heart of its plan — one family of petrol engines emanating from a single design which can be produced with six, four or three cylinders.

Called the XS family, it is based on a light and compact in-line six-cylinder block under secret development in Germany for two years. This unit is short enough to fit transversely across the engine bay of a medium car — the first Daewoo to carry it will be a version of the forthcoming Leganza. Two cylinders will drop off the end to produce a four-cylinder version, and a three-cylinder engine will structurally be half a six.

Design and manufacturing will be so flexible that these engines will come off the same production line in whatever order and quantities Daewoo needs. The six-cylinder engine will be of 2.5 litres, with four-cylinder engines of 1.4 or 1.6 and three-cylinder units as small as 800cc.

Since the Leganza with XS six-cylinder is not due to appear until 1999, details are still under wraps, but according to Andreas Truckenbrodt, co-chief at Daewoo's technical centre near Munich, the prototype is little more than an inch longer than the current four-cylinder engine.

With main accessories it weighs under 300lbs compared with the 363lbs of the BMW 2.5-litre in-line six, says Truckenbrodt, and will be far lighter and less complex than any comparable V6. With plenty of space around it, the unit will be easy to service — a central Daewoo requisite.

Working with German specialists, Daewoo engineers have achieved these compact dimensions by developing the narrow bore/long stroke principle. This also offers low fuel consumption and emission characteristics, says Truckenbrodt, and preliminary results have been "very competitive".

"We are using advanced but affordable technology and materials — no ceramics at the moment," he said. "We want to lead the world, but low production cost is extremely important. We must expect that labour costs will increase in those areas where they are presently low, so other costs must be contained. To be able to manufacture all XS engines on one transfer line is a very important element of this."

maximum of just over 100mph (at 5,700rpm) does not sound strained. Steering is balanced and responsive, handling and road-holding competent.

With the 1.6 engine — its updating includes 16 valves — the Lanos feels almost brisk with 0-60mph in 11.6 seconds and 131mph top speed, and the abilities of the chassis to tie down the structure despite softish springing become more evident. But the engine note is constantly hard and the suspension has an unfinished manner, picking up just about everything the road surface has to offer.

Put the same engine in the more spacious Nubira, however, and you have a civilised car which delivers 0-60 in 10.5 and up to 116mph with no more than an acceptable drone of effort. The truly mechanical business has gone. Road blips too are absorbed with no more than a little joggling at speed, while wind and road noise are slight and distances pass comfortably.

The 2-litre delivers better figures, of course, but 0-60mph in under nine seconds and a maximum 122mph have their drawbacks. This larger unit not only generates an intrusive drone but suffers from boom periods. Impressions of refinement and balance built up by the chassis at lower speeds evaporate as you thum through the motorway.

More development necessary? Better quality control on the Korean production line? It will be the generation after this — Daewoo cars that have shed the old GM attachments which served to get the marque under way — which shows us what this lively company can really achieve.

I drove versions of both over three days in five Continental countries (the Leganza was not yet available). Of the 1.4 and 1.6 engines, the smaller is the smoother, quieter and better suited to the Lanos, but its performance is very limited. It lacks pull below 4,000rpm, takes almost 15 seconds to pass 60mph, needs plenty of gear-work to stay in contention even on a modest incline.

But it moves around town pleasantly, settles comfortably at 70mph for a relaxed 3,300rpm, and even at its

phase. Exterior design was by Italian style house IDEA, whose solution was massaged by Daewoo's own Seoul-based Design Forum. Interior style was fashioned by Design Forum and Daewoo's main European technical centre in Worthing. Engineering was shared by Worthing and Seoul, with input from Delphi and GM Powertrain. Development of the 2-litre engine was overseen by GM Holden.

Both ranges have emerged with ultra-safe styling. Apart from the distinctive three-part grille with its wheatsheaf centre section, neither model looks anything other than carefully curved and pleasantly proportioned.

Lanos and Nubira sum up the unmemorable international norm, and in the quest for

ROAD TEST

with Astra, Rover 200, Hyundai Accent and Seat Ibiza, dates from late 1993 when a proposal by Italdesign was selected. Ricardo worked the chassis, Ricardo was given development of the General Motors-designed 1.4 and 1.6 engines. Delphi took on engine management and anti-lock brakes, and GM Powertrain was involved with automatic transmission. Lanos took only 30 months from approval to start of production.

Nubira, whose natural quarry is deemed to be Vectra, Hyundai Lantra, Mitsubishi Carisma, Chrysler Neon and senior Ford Escorts, took 32 months to get through its first

DAEWOO LANOS AND NUBIRA

LANOS
Engine: 1.4-litre four-cylinder giving 74bhp at 5,400rpm; 1.6-litre 16-valve four-cylinder giving 105bhp at 6,000rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual, four-speed auto.
Performance: 1.4 manual: 0-60mph in 14.8 secs max 104mph. 1.6 manual: 0-60 in 11.3 secs, max 131mph.
Economy: 1.4: urban 24.8mpg, extra urban 47.9, combined 35.6. 1.6: urban 23.5mpg, extra urban 45.6, combined 34.4.
Equipment: Anti-lock brakes, twin airbags, power steering, split/fold rear seat.
Price: £8,795-£11,195.

NUBIRA
Engine: 1.6-litre four-cylinder giving 105bhp at 5,800rpm; 2-litre four-cylinder giving 132bhp at 5,400rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual, four-speed auto.
Performance: 1.6: 0-60mph in 10.8 secs, max 116mph. 2.0: 0-60 in 8.8 secs, max 122mph.
Economy: 1.6: urban 23.2mpg, extra urban 41.5, combined 32.1. 2.0: urban 20.9mpg, extra urban 39.2, combined 29.7.
Equipment: Anti-lock brakes, twin airbags, electric front windows, remote locking, tilt-adjust wheel, split/fold rear seat.
Price: £11,995-£13,945.

Today Worthing, tomorrow the world

With millions invested in personnel and high technology, Daewoo's Sussex plant stands at the leading edge of global car development

A major role in the development of the Nubira was played by a technical team in Sussex by the sea. More than 1,000 engineers, mainly British, are now working in Worthing to make Daewoo a major international automotive force, Ian Morton writes.

Daewoo bought the facility — formerly the independent consultancy International Automotive Design — three years ago to give itself a fast start in Europe.

"The acquisition was typical of Daewoo's approach," said Jim Mason, managing director of engineering. "It provided an instant springboard to having a serious R&D centre in the shortest possible time."

"While starting with a clean sheet of paper has many attractions, not least being able to establish your own systems and work practices, there are many disadvantages such as having to build infrastructure and not being able

to hit the ground running. Worthing was able to make a positive contribution almost at once to some of the many projects proposed by Daewoo.

"We were given the major responsibility for the development of the Nubira. All our work here is original. We are working at the leading edge of whole-car development. We are not a Europeanisation facility whose purpose is to make Korean cars acceptable in European markets."

The centre, which has expanded to a second site nearby, has an annual operating budget of £40 million and an annual investment of £15 million in equipment and facilities. It is linked to

24-month concept-to-start-up development programme, and took the Shiraz, a model designed for the Geneva motor show, from design to completion in under 16 weeks. Shiraz will form the basis of a new executive model scheduled for launch in 1999.

As well as designing and building prototypes, the facility is deeply into testing and boasts one of the world's three 18-channel test rigs (the others are at Mercedes-Benz and Porsche). This can replicate in three weeks the stresses a car would suffer over six months and 76,000 kilometres of traditional road testing over every cruel surface from Belgian paving to Third World potholes — though in the course of it a female technician may be found sitting in the shaking car listening for and locating rattles and squeaks.

"For some things," admits Mason, "at the end of the day you can't beat a good pair of human ears."

SPARE PARTS

The car is imported by Eurotec Racing of Lutworth, Dorset and has a price tag of £37,695 with left-hand-drive. Prices for right-hand-drive versions will be announced shortly. Cars are built to order but the specification includes full leather trim, air conditioning, driver's airbag and 18in Speedline wheels.

FORD has announced price rises for most car and commercial vehicles from

Monday. The average increase is 1.2 per cent, enough to push the price of a Fiesta 3-door 1.25 LX from £9,945 to £10,085 on the road. An Escort 5-door 1.6 LX goes up from £13,390 to £13,530 and a 2-litre, 7-seat Galaxy Aspen rises from £18,285 to £18,490. Some models, including Focus versions of Fiesta, Escort and Mondeo and the Ka and Puma, escape price rises. Ford will now follow the lead of other manufacturers in quoting on-the-road prices (including road tax and delivery), rather than basic list price.

THE 50,000th Fiat Coupé rolled off the production line at Pininfarina last month, just over three years after the car — as renowned for its looks as its performance — was introduced. It has helped establish the company once known simply for design and coachbuilding as a major vehicle manufacturer. Its other products include the sumptuous Bentley Azure and the pretty Peugeot 306 Cabriolet.

USED CAR BRIEF



DAEWOO ESPERO
By rebalancing the old Vauxhall Cavalier in a new package, and tying a ribbon of excellent customer and dealer feedback around the Espo, sold, and sells, by virtue of its service rather than technical brilliance. The 4-door Espo saloon was launched in 1995 with 1.3, 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrol engines, and in these days of engine wars it's the pumping to the coasting.

GOOD NEWS
Satisfyingly, the Espo's engine is a proven performer. All cars get power steering, air-locks, alloy wheels, and a CD stereo. The 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 2.0-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer.

LOOK FOR
The Espo is a proven performer, and the 2.0-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer.

SAFETY
The Espo is a proven performer, and the 2.0-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer.

REPLACEMENT PARTS
The Espo is a proven performer, and the 2.0-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer.

OVERALL
The Espo is a proven performer, and the 2.0-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer. The 1.3-litre engine is a proven performer, and the 1.6-litre engine is a proven performer.

FORECOURT

THE good news for two-wheeler fans enjoying this month's special Car 97 articles, is that used motorbike prices are on the way down, with new bike prices frozen for the near future, writes Vaughan Freeman.

Values for used motorbikes have dropped for the second month in a row, falls that come hot on the heels of April and May when prices showed only the smallest of increases,

tion changing as 1997 registered machines, part-exchanged over the coming weeks against brand-new "R" plate motorbikes, come on to the used market, which makes two-wheeler forecourts a happy hunting ground for those customers who are seeking a used bargain.

Hobson says: "The opinion among most dealers is that with new bike sales running 30 per cent higher, there will be a flood of used bikes back into the market as owners look to get out of them towards the back end of the year."

Nearly-new big bikes set to become sound second-hand buys include Honda's Fireblade and CBR600, although prices for older machines — such as a five-year-old Suzuki GSXR1100 — are likely to rise as insurance premiums for such motorcycles fall, making them more affordable to run.

For those interested in a brand new motorcycle, there is no need to rush and buy for fear of prices soaring during autumn. One side effect of the ever-increasing strength of the pound is that since just about every two-wheeler sold in Britain is built abroad and imported, major price increases in the immediate future are unlikely.

reports the CAP Green Book on motorbike prices.

Values for used motorbikes overall dropped by 0.9 per cent in July, and around 1.4 per cent in June, so that used machines in general are 2.6 per cent cheaper than they were in February.

Rob Hobson of CAP Green Book says: "Used values continue to be under pressure in all sectors, from lightweights, including mopeds and scooters, all the way up to the supersports motorbikes."

While motorcycle dealers writing their hands, there are few signs of the current situa-



Helem V6 GTR: among the fastest coupes on the market

A ROADGOING version of the Helem GTI Spider Coupé developed for racing at Le Mans and other GT championship events over the past two years is now available in Britain.

With a top speed of 177mph, the Helem V6 GTR will be among the fastest coupes on the market. It is designed around the alloy chassis of the racing Helem Spider but will feature a longer wheelbase to make way for a larger engine. Using a tuned and turbo-charged Renault V6, the car produces 280bhp.

Putting the family on four wheels

THE Austin Seven, renowned for bringing car ownership within reach of working-class pockets, first emerged from the Longbridge works in Birmingham 75 years ago. This milestone in motoring history is being celebrated by the devoted owners of many of Sir Herbert Austin's surviving Chummies, Opals, Pearls and Rubies, as

the Seven was variously and affectionately known. More than 80 Sevens set out today on a two-week tour of France, including 14 brought from Australia. They plan to cover 1,400 miles in stately rather than record-breaking style. **Ronald Faax** looks back on a motor car of simple excellence that is internationally admired.

Designed in great secrecy on the billiard table at Lickey Grange, Sir Herbert Austin's home near Birmingham, when his company was on the verge of bankruptcy, the Austin Seven put more families on to four wheels than any other car of its day. More than 300,000 were sold between 1922 and 1939 in more than 320 variants.

I reckoned it to be the biggest car in the world, with lustrous black, stove-enamelled wings and headlights large enough for a lighthouse. That was how our succession of Sevens appeared to me as a three-year-old. The car spelt travel, excitement and the seaside and we can still visit the dent in a fence my father made in his search for reverse gear. The roof of one was torn off by an aircraft coming in to land on Southport beach.

Sir Herbert made rough drawings on the billiard table and handed them to Stanley Edge, an 18-year-old engineering draughtsman seconded from the Austin works for the project. Three prototypes were produced, the first abandoned because it hopped like a kangaroo. The successful version was unveiled at Claridge's in July 1922 and exhibited at the Motor Show the following October. Sir Herbert had pushed ahead with his plans against the doubts and criticism of some fellow directors and, at £225, the car proved an immediate success. Growing numbers and a more efficient assembly line brought the price down to £165. The early attempts to ridicule the "motorised pram" or "soap box on wheels" rebounded and became terms of endearment rather than ridicule.

Bernard Griffiths of the

Austin Seven Clubs' Association, says that 3,500 Sevens are registered and probably 6,000 survive worldwide. "They are immensely tough little cars, designed to be put right by the village blacksmith and to last a long time. People have driven them round the world and they rally from Land's End to John O'Groats. They spawned other cars, among them the first Lotus, BMW and, in a convoluted way, the first Land Rover. I think it was Campbell got 100 miles an hour out of one on the Daytona salt flats. There were supercharged Ulsters,

'It was, even in its day, simple yet rugged and gave inexpensive, available transport'

open top sports, box saloons; many, many varieties that shared the same basic chassis and engine," he says.

The Seven offers the cheapest and most convenient way into classic car ownership. Spare parts remain plentiful when repairs are beyond the village blacksmith. A relic in need of full restoration may be found, if you are lucky, for a few hundred pounds. A working runner requiring no more than tender loving care would be around £3,000, but an

immaculately restored example of Seven exotica, such as the top-of-the-range Chummy or a Gordon England Sunshine Saloon, might fetch up to £9,000.

Griffiths says the reason for the Seven's continuing appeal is simple. "They were a part of just about everybody's past. It was, even in its day, simple yet rugged and gave inexpensive, available transport. It was overloaded, abused, repaired by Heath Robinsons, but still kept going."

Sevens regularly clock up 200,000 miles and are said to give their best when about to die. The 780cc side valve engine produced 10 brake horse power at around 4,000rpm and, unless they are regularly maintained, the brakes are said to require written notice to perform an emergency stop. Motor manufacturers of the day had views on braking performance. Sir Herbert insisted that good brakes encouraged furious driving, while Etore Bugatti ducked responsibility when his cars were criticised: "I build cars to go, not to stop."

Light Car and Cyclecar found it "an energetic little car" which clung to the road confidently. Though the brakes were never "startlingly sudden," the car handled Birdlip hill with a following wind at 15mph with no signs of steaming. The first road test of the Austin Seven, in *The Autocar* began by describing the car as a miracle, doing so much so well for so little cost.

Which is how Rosemary Spence, wife of the vicar of Kirkbride in Cumbria, feels about the 1936 Opal open tourer she has owned for 15 years. The car had spent all its life in the Isle of Man and was



Rosemary Spence in her Austin Seven Opal: "It has been a very cheap way into owning a classic car as a hobby"

therefore a very low mileage model.

"I potter about in it. If we're caught out in the rain, the water tends to leak in where the brake handle goes through the floor and through gaps in the side screens, but otherwise it is pretty watertight. It has been a very cheap way into owning a classic car as a hobby," she says.

We potter out with the hood down and the breeze whistling past the upright little windscreen. Sir Herbert was no aerodynamicist and the early Sevens have the streamline qualities of a brick.

We reach 35mph and, as the hedgerows unwind, the little car gives an impression of

being on rails. Most Sevens have only three gears, but the Opal has the luxury of a fourth which made little real difference to performance. The engine ticks along like a proverbial sewing machine and the transmission and gearbox grumble contentedly. For the first time in many years, I double clutch into second gear approaching a junction. There is a slight grinding of cogs and the trafficator — all the rage among safety-conscious motorists in the Thirties — flips out like a salute as we round a bend.

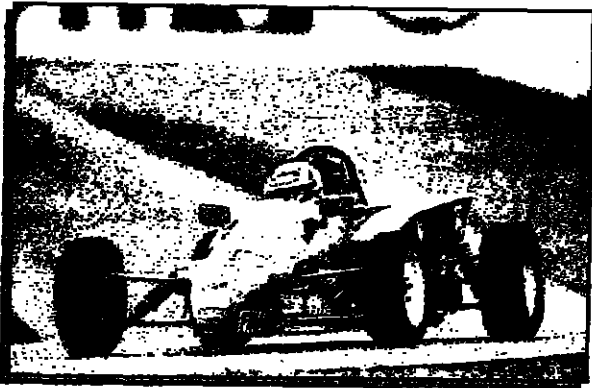
"I got up to 50 once with a following wind. Not a speed that you would think twice about in a modern car, but quite exciting in a Seven," Mrs Spence says. "If Malcolm Campbell got more than 100 out of one, I wouldn't have liked to have been in it."



Early Austin Seven advertising: the legendary car has now become an ageless classic

EXCLUSIVE TIMES SPORTS OFFER

Brands Hatch Motor Racing Day Tuesday 26 August



The Times and Brands Hatch have teamed up to offer readers an exclusive interactive event-day where you will spend the day driving a variety of racing vehicles with full tuition. For only £165 per person, this price shows a superb saving on the usual price. You will be entertained in a private suite as well as out on the race circuit where you will race against the clock - this is guaranteed to be a day to remember.

NIGEL MANSELL RACING SCHOOL

This is the Brands Hatch flagship product, and allows you to experience the thrill of driving a single seater racing car on an international circuit. After an initial briefing on safety and racing techniques you will be coached by an experienced instructor in a BMW 318i before embarking on laps in a Formula First single seater.

HONDA PILOTS

These are roll cages on wheels, which provide plenty of high-speed, off-road excitement. Safely cocooned in the steel frame you will guide this nippy grass track vehicle around a challenging course.

DESERT STARS

Another purpose built off-road racer with the emphasis on fun. Desert stars have two seats, a longer wheelbase and more power than the pilots making for even faster grass track action.

QUAD BIKES

The four wheelers provide all the fun of a motor cross bike with none of the instability. That said you will need to hang on to the handlebars as you pilot your vehicle round an obstacle course of see-saws, jumps and slippery corners in a frantic run against the clock.

HOT RIDES

Hot rides provides a 100mph plus complement to the

school as participants take the hot seat beside an experienced racing driver as he pushes a Van Diemen Multi-sport car to the limit.

KARTING

Karting gives you the opportunity to go head-to-head in a racing situation in single-engined leisure karts.

CATERHAM AUTOTEST

Test your driving skills to the full in a truly classic sports car. You will guide a Caterham forwards and backwards through a course designed to challenge your precision driving ability.

£165 PER PERSON INCLUDES:

Morning registration and safety briefing with Event Co-ordinator and coffee and biscuits.

Nigel Mansell Racing School which includes personal tuition and driving analysis with a professional racing driver in a BMW racing saloon, high speed demonstration laps with professional racing driver, solo laps in single seater racing car, Multi-sport two-seater racing car demonstration laps.

Lunch in hospitality suite.

Honda Pilots, Desert Stars, Karting Grand Prix, Quad Bikes and Caterham Autotest contest.

Afternoon tea with presentation ceremony and trophies for the winner of each event.

Cheered to the echo at the wheel of a Wartburg

As Saturday dawned at London City airport and we boarded a flight to Mönchengladbach we reflected on the challenge we were about to undertake. Two British journalists in an East German car for 1,250 miles in the "2000km durch Deutschland", a classic car rally that this year attracted more than 180 cars and 15 classic motorcycles.

On arrival, my co-driver, Matt, and I were introduced to our car — a Wartburg, a curious vehicle with a 1 litre 2-stroke 3-cylinder engine. Our rivals were widely varied. In addition to the vast number of Mercedes and BMWs there were also several American

A classic cross-Germany rally is not for the faint-hearted, but it's a great way to travel, says Claire Furnell

cars, a couple of Auto Unions and Lagondas, even a three-wheel Morgan and the oldest car in the event — a 1925 Bollnase Morris.

With the first car to leave on Sunday morning at 7.30 we were all up for the first of many 6am swims in the hotel pool before heading for Frankfurt via the spa town of Baden-Baden. All went well until Artie the Wartburg, as he had become known by us, stalled in the traffic and refused point blank to restart. We pushed him into a nearby garage and called out the AWD, Germany's version of

too far wrong. At every point we visited, people were out in force. We began Monday at 7.45 in Frankfurt on a 394km day to head toward our finish at Stuttgart via the spa town of Baden-Baden. All went well until Artie the Wartburg, as he had become known by us, stalled in the traffic and refused point blank to restart. We pushed him into a nearby garage and called out the AWD, Germany's version of

the RAC, two hours later the problem was diagnosed as water in the carburettor and solved.

On Wednesday we had a short trip of only 27km to Dresden. We had few problems and made all the checkpoints and everywhere the reaction was the same — *Vartburg, Vartburg!* screamed the crowds. People patted the car and shook our hands, asked for autographs and showered us with gifts.

The start in Dresden on Thursday morning was delayed until 10 o'clock to allow competitors to take in the sights of the beautiful town. From then it was on to Magdeburg for the evening. Friday began cold and gloomy with the rain that had already caused the evacuation of some German towns, apparently heading our way. By lunch time we had reached Hanover and enjoyed our lunch before heading on to make our way to Bad Wildungen, but after not too long the driving rain and bad roads saw the end of our rally in a ditch and although not badly hurt we finished our journey that day by train. Several other cars had also had problems due to the weather, but no one was seriously hurt.

Saturday saw the remaining competitors make the 443km journey back to Mönchengladbach, where a great deal of sponsor Geldermann's champagne was being consumed to celebrate the end of a successful and well organised rally.

This is a great way to enjoy your classic car and to see Germany, the crowds, the people and the scenery. But with stages up to 500km, it is hard work. Navigation is relatively easy to understand — just take a phrase book — but you must keep your wits about you at every turn so as not to lose your way.

It's not as famous as the Mille Miglia, but if you want to test your classic car over more than two days, the 2,000km is a good challenge.



A 1948 BMW Isotta 150, left, and a Holden all the way from Sydney near Baden-Baden

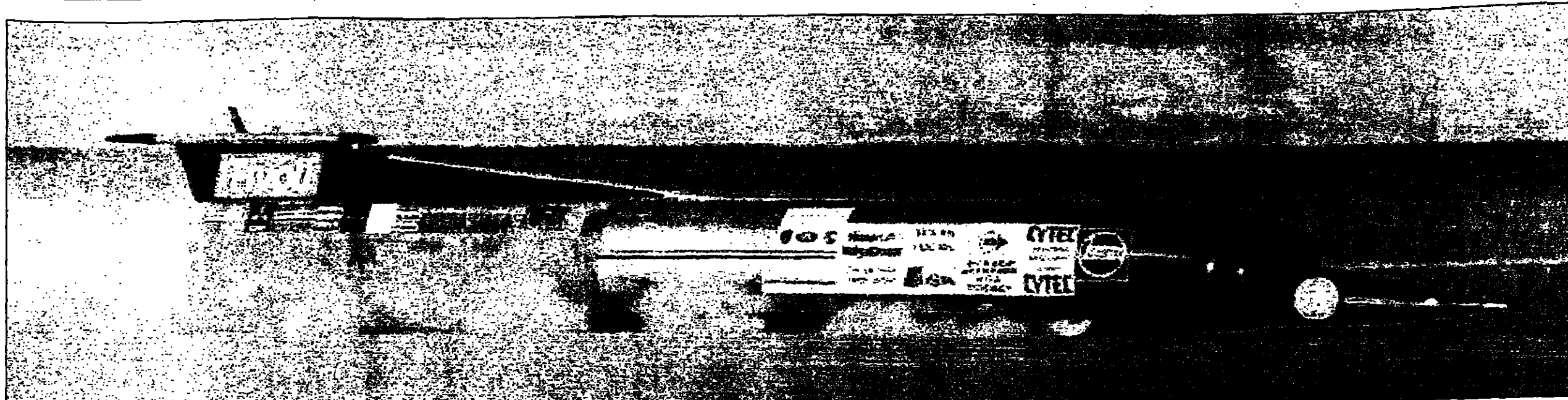


Our 1963 Wartburg 311 de luxe — nicknamed Artie — which drove the crowd wild

TO BOOK CALL JANET TURNER OF CRAIG ORMISTON AT BRANDS HATCH ON 01474 872331 QUOTING 'THE TIMES' Monday-Friday, 9am-5.30pm. Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Switch accepted.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Britain's challenge to America for the land speed record could stall in a cash desert, says Alan Copps



Thrust: the race is now for the money

The Black Rock Desert in Nevada is ready, the veteran record-breaker Craig Breedlove and Spirit of America are ready. Thrust SSC, the British contender, is ready. The only ingredient missing from the supercruise challenge is the cash to get Thrust there.

Two months ago the mighty British car in the hands of Sir Li Andy Green reached 540mph during trials on a desert track in Jordan. That track was too short for a record bid, but the speed was within 100mph of the existing land speed record held by project director Richard Noble and within 200mph of the speed of sound, the goal for both Thrust and the Spirit of America in what Noble calls "the greatest car race on God's Earth".

But as Green demonstrated Thrust's readiness this week with a 200mph whizz along the runway at the team's Farnborough, Hampshire headquarters, Noble was pursuing his relentless quest for funds. Thrust SSC with its huge twin jet engines, design speed of

850mph and astonishing technology is the product of a shoestring operation compared to the corporate resources of Shell which is backing its American rival, and the logistics of getting it set up and to the race site are hugely expensive.

Noble, who reached 633.468mph in Thrust 2 to set the present record in 1983, has worked tirelessly wheeling and dealing to keep the project on the road. Now he is looking for one last injection of cash to get his car to the start line.

"The US desert will flood in October and we couldn't keep the 30-man team together through another winter. We either go to the US now and get on with the job, or we put Thrust into a museum," he says.

To do that would be a tragic finish to a project which has progressed from reactions of utter disbelief at the drawing board to genuine anticipation as the desert heads-to-head looms.

"We got funding from BTR for the Jordan trip, but nevertheless I had to take £24,000 VAT money to

pay the bills," says Noble. "When we returned we calculated we needed to raise £161,000 in 60 days to fund July, August and six weeks in Black Rock. We reckoned we could raise 20 per cent through our own trading activities and the rest through sponsorship. So far the trading profit is ahead of target but we've got just £183,000 corporate cash in 35 days. That leaves us £333,000 to raise in 17 days. Without it this could be Thrust's last run."

He estimates that another boost to trading through the Mach 1 Supporters' Club and the project's website, which recently celebrated its 10 millionth hit, will meet part of the shortfall, but that still leaves him a man with a fast financial mission. And he remains indomitably optimistic. "We're ready to fly to Reno on September 1, the Antonov Heavylift aircraft to take the car is booked and the desert is booked. We'll be there," he says.

Thrust on the Internet is: <http://thrustssc.digital.co.uk>
Info line is 0833-888-850.

FOR SALE: GLAMOUR MOTORING FROM A LOST ERA OF THE PLAYBOY



1966 AC Cobra 427: estimated at auction, £97,500-£116,200



1969 Lamborghini Miura Jota, arguably the first "supercar"



1965 Lola T70 Spyder: estimated at auction, £153,500-£166,000

A collection of 23 cars normally seen alongside luxury yachts come down to earth in a Geneva sale room next month. They belong to Patrick and Genevieve Munn, two Swiss brothers who saved Lamborghini from closure in 1980.

At the same time they built up an impressive collection of largely Italian motoring exotica, which was stored in a warehouse in the south of France.

But cars need to be used regularly. The brothers sold the company to Chrysler, who sold it on to Indonesian interests. Sotheby's will sell their collection at the Geneva Motor Museum on September 9. It is expected to make more than £1.5 million.

Martin Chisholm, head of Sotheby's car department, said: "The cars represent a lost playboy era of excitement, fun and hedonism. They represent some of the best supercars of the Sixties and Seventies."

Ferruccio Lamborghini mounted his luxury car challenge to Ferrari with the 350GT in 1964. But his company's international name was made with the Miura, arguably the first "supercar".

Its successor, the Countach, was also a sensation and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia bought one off the

stand at the Paris motor show in 1975. But there are few buyers at that level and the feeling grew that the firm was producing cars that were too expensive for the market.

There is a 1969 Miura Jota in the auction, a splendid run of Ferraris and, closer to home, a 1958 AC Bristol, a couple of Aston Martins from 1958 and 1967 and an E-type Jaguar from 1974.

But the car market can be fickle, even for classic names and these examples have been priced to sell. The estimates have come down considerably since the firm issued its catalogue order form to enthusiasts a couple of months ago.

But Chisholm sensed an improvement in the market. The enthusiasts are back but the investor is also starting to return. He has been absent for the past seven years but he is now coming back for high quality cars that are also reasonably priced and we think we have both in this sale."

A 1938 BMW 327 sports tourer used by Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's ambassador in London and later German Foreign Minister, sold anonymously for £16,100 in a Brooks car auction at the Nurburgring in Germany. The sale made £1.4 million.

OFFICIAL PORSCHE CENTRES

Colchester

01206 855500
0850 968911

Cambridge

01223 372872

London

0181 983 4444
0850 968911

We pay top prices for your quality used Porsche. Please call Ian Clark on 0831 344705.

Cardiff

01222 614622

Merlin

Nottingham

01159 420944

Stratstone

01625 522222/
0468 383821

Contact David Hobson or Andy Axton

PORSCHE

911 Speedster
89 G, black, turbo
body, cream leather, 12K
miles, FSH, immaculate,
alarm/immobiliser, CD,
£26,000
0181 508 5822(h)

911 CAB
LHD, '96 N, Tip, met blue,
all grey leather, wip, w/c,
alloys, more extras, FSH,
12K miles. £46,500.
0171 431 1844/
0370 523310.

911
Carrera 4 '90 G, guard
red, a/c, alloy, full ltr, CD,
FSH, immac priv own
car. 55K. £29,750
0113 269 5505(h)
282 2181(o)

911 C 2,
Carrera 4 '90 G, guard
red, a/c, alloy, full ltr, CD,
FSH, immac priv own
car. 55K. £29,750
0113 269 5505(h)
282 2181(o)

PORSCHE

928GT
91H, immac. 62K
miles. Guards red.
FSH. A/c, ltr. ESR.
£21,000.
01273 779998

944 S 2 G 89
2 previous owners
Red, 50K miles, FSH.
Private place, MOT/ tax.
Excellent condition.
Viewing recommended.
£12,250 cash.
Tel: 01923 462623(h)
or 0421 400869(m)

BOXSTER
1997 R
delivery mileage, Blue Ocean
Metallic, Lux Pack, a/c.
Hard Top, 17" Alloys,
leather seats etc. £44,500.
Tel: 0171 624 5480/
0171 935 4915

PORSCHE WANTED

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

SELF DRIVE
ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS
Drive in luxury all year round
Arrive at that special occasion in style
The most competitive retail Weekend specialist
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT FOR
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAYS!
HANWELLS OF LONDON
Tel: 0171-436 2070 Fax: 0171-436 3110

BENTLEY 8
72K mls, '89, Royal
blue, beige/brown
piping, FSH,
£23,000
01245 464545(work)

GOLF VR6
'95 N, '96 mod, 30K, design
group, 3dr, twin air bag, alloy
CD10, VAG abs, just
serviced, excellent con, can
be viewed London £15,500
01428 682195(h)
0171 496 8788(o)

GOLF
1.8CL, Black, 8 reg, lovely
cond, 5 door, 54K miles, 2
lady owners, FVWSH, 10
months MOT, taxed, stereo,
4 speakers, £6,750.
Tel: 0385 957582.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

SELF DRIVE
ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS
Drive in luxury all year round
Arrive at that special occasion in style
The most competitive retail Weekend specialist
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT FOR
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAYS!
HANWELLS OF LONDON
Tel: 0171-436 2070 Fax: 0171-436 3110

BENTLEY 8
72K mls, '89, Royal
blue, beige/brown
piping, FSH,
£23,000
01245 464545(work)

SHADOW II
1978, Nutmeg over
willow gold, pristine
condition, only 47,000
miles. £12,000.
Tel: 01730 821644.
No dealers.

SILVER SHADOW II
1977 / S.
Prestige blue / cream
overlaid, cream leather.
34,000 mls, FSH.
£12,950.
Tel: 01753 643497

928 GT
1990 G reg, Guards red, 48K mls.
FSH, alloy, leather, wip, w/c, alloy,
FSH, 17" cap alloys, speakers,
new alarm & crash, except
CD.
Offers around £22,000
01335 344072.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

SELF DRIVE
ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS
Drive in luxury all year round
Arrive at that special occasion in style
The most competitive retail Weekend specialist
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT FOR
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAYS!
HANWELLS OF LONDON
Tel: 0171-436 2070 Fax: 0171-436 3110

BENTLEY 8
72K mls, '89, Royal
blue, beige/brown
piping, FSH,
£23,000
01245 464545(work)

GOLF VR6
'95 N, '96 mod, 30K, design
group, 3dr, twin air bag, alloy
CD10, VAG abs, just
serviced, excellent con, can
be viewed London £15,500
01428 682195(h)
0171 496 8788(o)

GOLF
1.8CL, Black, 8 reg, lovely
cond, 5 door, 54K miles, 2
lady owners, FVWSH, 10
months MOT, taxed, stereo,
4 speakers, £6,750.
Tel: 0385 957582.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

SELF DRIVE
ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEYS
Drive in luxury all year round
Arrive at that special occasion in style
The most competitive retail Weekend specialist
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT FOR
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAYS!
HANWELLS OF LONDON
Tel: 0171-436 2070 Fax: 0171-436 3110

BENTLEY 8
72K mls, '89, Royal
blue, beige/brown
piping, FSH,
£23,000
01245 464545(work)

SHADOW II
1978, Nutmeg over
willow gold, pristine
condition, only 47,000
miles. £12,000.
Tel: 01730 821644.
No dealers.

SILVER SHADOW II
1977 / S.
Prestige blue / cream
overlaid, cream leather.
34,000 mls, FSH.
£12,950.
Tel: 01753 643497

928 GT
1990 G reg, Guards red, 48K mls.
FSH, alloy, leather, wip, w/c, alloy,
FSH, 17" cap alloys, speakers,
new alarm & crash, except
CD.
Offers around £22,000
01335 344072.

VOLVO

1994 Mdl
Volvo 940 2.0 SE Turbo
Estate, 52,200 m, FSH 7 m.
max. 110K, low tax, 11K
years company warranty.
£11,995.
01909 540267.

T5R ESTATE
Immac, Olive Metallic,
45,000 mls, mint condition.
£19,995 no offer.
Tel: 01455 888888
(Blackley)

VOLVO

1994 Mdl
Volvo 940 2.0 SE Turbo
Estate, 52,200 m, FSH 7 m.
max. 110K, low tax, 11K
years company warranty.
£11,995.
01909 540267.

T5R ESTATE
Immac, Olive Metallic,
45,000 mls, mint condition.
£19,995 no offer.
Tel: 01455 888888
(Blackley)

RELAIS & CHATEAUX



A truly memorable feast for all of the senses

With its head in the snow-capped Alps and its toe almost touching Africa, Italy is many countries in one. Piedmont, Liguria and Emilia-Romagna were the places I knew best, and when I visited Puglia for the first time, I hardly knew where I was.

Its little whitewashed villages, hard on the eye in the midday sun, set against a turquoise Adriatic, could have been Greece. And, indeed, this was once part of Magna Graecia. An area of dense settlements, both inland and coastal, Puglia, and its capital, Bari, has always been an important agricultural, maritime and mercantile province on the ancient trade routes from the East to Europe.

The landscape is dotted with fortified farmhouses, or *masserie*. You might wonder why a farmhouse should be fortified, but this is an ancient area of settlement prone to attack by the Saracens in the Middle Ages.

Il Melograno is one such *masseria*, just a few kilometres inland from Monopoli, and not far from Ostuni to the south and Polignano to the north. It is large enough in itself to resemble a small

ITALY Francis Bissell tries the varied and spectacular delights of Puglia

Greek village. Outhouses have been restored to provide delightfully secluded guest accommodation, so that you can have breakfast outside your own front door, under a gnarled and twisted olive tree.

The farmhouse is now a small, beautiful, luxurious hotel, where the Guerriero family have made a determined effort to keep the style Pugliese. This extends to the cooking done by Maurice Barnaba, born in France to Pugliese parents, who have accompanied him "back home" to their retirement.

The beaches of the Adriatic are nearby; the hotel has its own private beach and a fitness centre. And there is much to see in the medieval coastal towns. Further inland is the *trulli* capital of the world, Alberobello, where there are

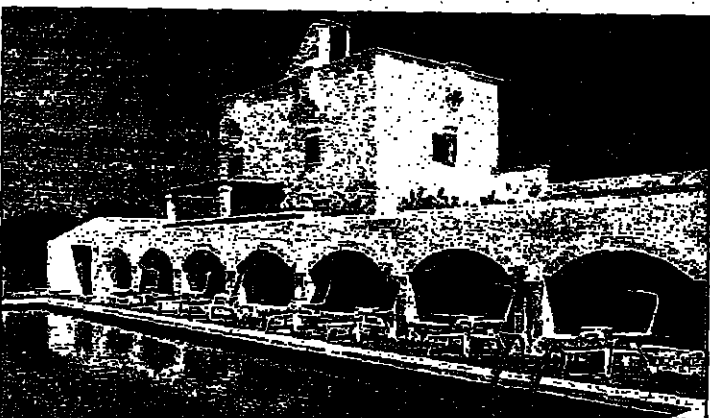
more than a thousand of these small conical dwellings.

It is awfully tempting just to stay put and enjoy the lovely estate, with its pomegranate and almond trees, and the delightful citrus grove. And the food here is well worth investigating. The Pugliese diet is based on bread, pasta, vegetables, fish and shellfish — the ideal Mediterranean diet, in fact. It is accompanied by the peppery oils from ancient olive trees, and washed down with full-bodied red wines from the Salentino, and aromatic whites from Locorotondo.

The simplest cooking methods are employed. Fish will be grilled whole or, if filleted, the fillets will be wrapped in foil, or parchment parcels with little in the way of aromatics, perhaps just salt and pepper, a squeeze of lemon juice and a little olive oil, and it will then be baked. Much of the shellfish is served raw, and you might try a heap of sea urchins — a divine feast.

One of the most striking dishes was the *mozzarella*. Always made that day from fresh buffalo milk, it bore no resemblance to the variety found in the UK. Creamy, elastic and soft, it was always the first thing we ate with the lovely crusty bread. The meal might then move on to a range of *salume*, cured meats, and *antipasto*, preserved in oils and vinegars, such as tomatoes, small aubergines, anchovies, mushrooms, peppers and *lampascioni*, a bitter wild bulb highly prized in the region.

At Il Melograno the chef cooks a *marvelous orecchiette con braciole di vitellino, manzo e pollo* — a steaming, hot, hearty rustic plateful of the local, ear-shaped pasta, meat rolls, and a deep, rich savoury sauce. It is as honest and authentic as his *puré di fave con cicoria*, a purée of white beans with bitter greens, served in two heaps in an earthenware bowl.



Il Melograno: swim or relax on a lounger by the poolside.

Tuck into the breakfast, and lunch be damned

It's quite hard to see from the map just where Connemara begins, but you know when you get there. Beyond Galway, towards the western tip of the western Gaeltacht, or Irish-speaking area, the landscape becomes more open, punctuated by small hills and deep, peaty brown pools. Your eye catches the occasional slow movement of sheep ambulating over the tussocks of coarse grass, or a brief flash of a hawk overhead.

We drove on the coast road from Galway, and it took forever, it seemed, to go only two inches on the map, round bays and lagoons and over headlands. Tucked away deep in a sheltered bay, surrounded by a lush, almost tropical garden, we came upon Cachel House and the McEvilly family. The term "Irish hospitality" is almost tautology, but here it is to be found in abundance.

It was early afternoon when we arrived, and Kay McEvilly showed us to our rooms, knowing instinctively that we did not want a late lunch, and sent us a tray of afternoon tea. The room, with its large windows and green furnishings, was almost an extension of

IRELAND Francis Bissell savours soda bread, fried bread, bacon, eggs and bangers

the garden, supremely comfortable and cosseting, and the ideal place to contemplate dinner.

Dining in Ireland is better than ever, and at Cachel House you will taste the most exquisite food imaginable, not fancy and sophisticated food, but dishes made from prime, fresh local and seasonal ingredients. The lobster is very fine indeed, as is the local crab.

Vegetables are full of flavour, and are shown to their best advantage in the one or two soups on the daily menu and the vegetarian dish, which might be a red onion tart with carrot sauce, or a savoury strudel with port wine sauce. Herb gardens are very much a feature of Irish country houses, and this is reflected in its

cooking. The night we were there, Dermot McEvilly cooked a memorable *celery and lovage soup* for dinner. Sweet, fine-grained Connemara lamb is a real treat, as are the plump, briny oysters from Galway Bay and the locally caught salmon, which they smoke themselves.

Home-made soda bread is served at every meal, and is far better than biscuits with all the luscious, creamy Irish farmhouse cheeses now being made, each as individual as the people who make them: the Fergusons' Gubbeen, Jeffa Gill's Durrus, Jim and Breda Maher's Cooleeney and many more besides.

Desserts centre on home-made ice creams, tarts, cakes and seasonal fruit: one menu offers warm gooseberry tart, gratin of summer cherries or fresh strawberries or raspberries with cream.

Mixers and blenders hold little appeal, but I found the thought of sipping a black velvet while reading the menu quite irresistible.

The only thing better would have been a glass of draught Guinness — and to drink Guinness in Ireland is definitely a three-star attraction. If as much care were taken with pouring wine as is taken over drawing a pint of draught Guinness, the Irish hospitality industry would, without a doubt, have the finest wine service in the world.

Breakfast at Cachel House is not to be missed: free-range eggs, mildly cured local bacon, heavenly black pudding and white pudding, a few grilled mushrooms and tomatoes for good measure, and some fried bread and sausage.

Tea is the perfect companion to this little lot. And there must be something about the water that makes tea in Ireland taste so good.

Leave room for soda bread, toast and home-made jams and marmalade. Don't even think about lunch.



Cachel House: in a sheltered bay, surrounded by a lush garden



Jean-Michel Bodinaud and his wife Luce have turned Château de Nieul, a 16th-century hunting lodge, into the ultimate getaway

Fairytale tour in the land of châteaux

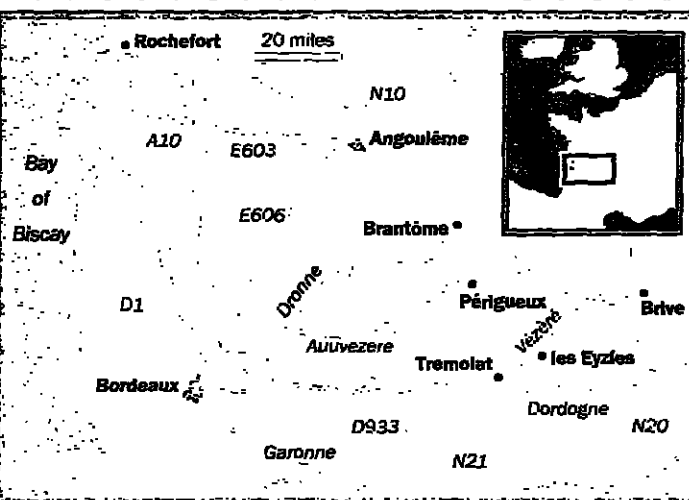
We tore apart our first croissant on board Eurostar. We passed our first host of sunflowers heading northeast from Angoulême, and took our first sip of champagne in the late afternoon sun against the backdrop of a fairytale château.

Slipping elegantly into a lifestyle of canapés "à la terrasse" and wafer-thin petits fours "dans le salon, s'il vous plaît", we toasted the week ahead. With ten francs to the pound, we had picked a perfect time to motor idly through the southwest of France, with my sister-in-law at the wheel of a hire car from Hertz. Wending our way between some of the most magnificent hotels in the world, our passport was Relais & Châteaux.

Jean-Michel Bodinaud was smiling, arms outstretched to greet us, on the stone steps of his 16th-century hunting lodge. The turreted pile, reached by a long winding drive, originally belonged to his grandfather. Since then, the ebullient owner and his wife Luce, the masterful chef de cuisine, have turned Château de Nieul into the ultimate luxury getaway. For the true escapists, there is even a moat and a well-worn helicopter pad in the 80-acre woodland surrounding the country retreat. "This is big, but this is not so big," exclaimed M. Bodinaud, alluding to the fact that his impressive hotel has a homely appeal for the eclectic group of casually dressed families and glamorous young couples who congregate every summer at the château. Celebrity pop group Blur were among them recently.

Armed with a gourmet's picnic, adventurous guests can explore the surrounding countryside and small villages from one of the hotel's open-topped Jeeps. Tennis, swimming, a ten-acre pond for fishing, and an art gallery housed in converted stables, are all within a toss of a croissant from the family-owned castle. With birdsong as the only background noise, we watched green-fingered staff work unhurried in the Bodinaud's walled-vegetable garden, tending

Morag Preston takes Eurostar and a hire car to sample the good life of rich food and fine wines in southwest France



to the produce in the balmy heat. (The complimentary *fleur de cour* germe, painstakingly stuffed with salmon mousse, rarely fails to raise a smile in the hotel's superb dining room.) We caught star-gazing strollers stealing midnight walks in the ornamental flower garden in front of the hotel.

En route to our next destination, we made a whirlwind tour of Château de La Rochefoucauld overlooking the Tardoire river. Heading south towards the bustling village of Brantôme, called the Venice of the Périgord because of its many canals, we arrived at Le Moulin de l'Abbaye with a thirst for afternoon tea. A 15th-century mill, a miller's house and a former abbey's residence, make up the exclusive hotel belonging to Régis Bulot, president of Relais & Châteaux. With pale-blue shutters and bubblegum-pink geraniums, the hotel is situated at one end of Brantôme, stretching across both sides of a street. At a candlelit table, overlooking the River Dronne, it was a fantasy setting for the highly praised cuisine. Most memorable

was the hotel's speciality scallop soup and my pudding of peaches in an electric-green syrup.

Le Vieux Logis, a 17th-century Carthusian monastery lying south of Périgueux, has the same rustic charm. But situated in the smaller village of Tremolat, it has a cosier feel. The fruit bowl in our room was stocked with apples and pears from the hotel's orchard. Sitting at our open bedroom window, eating freshly-baked bread daubed with *confiture*, it was easy to appreciate why Henry Miller had once spent a month here.

With a swimming pool in the French-style garden and bikes to tour the rural area, there is plenty one can do to work up an appetite before the delights of evening supper. The visitors' book is testimony to the attraction that Le Vieux Logis holds. One guest cycling through the Dordogne wrote: "We came on our way up, then decided to change our plans, and stayed again on the way back."

Places of interest along the route heading north to the village of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, where cave dwell-

ers lived during the Ice Age, are easy to find. Nestled in a hillside in the valley of Vézère, is the Grotte de Vache, a tour of the "Crystal Cathedral" took us deep into the underground realm, packed with stalactites and stalagmites.

Later we set off for Castel Nouel, in the direction of Brive. On a hill, stretching out over 12 acres, the family-run hotel is a former army barracks. Features for sporty types include tennis, cycling, a heated swimming pool, and an 18-hole golf course. Finding it hard to work up a hunger after our memorable lunch, we dined on salmon and ham, home-smoked salmon, and a heavenly fruit salad. The rooms in the hotel are large and distinctive.

But the sheer shock value of being shown a room at Saint James is hard to beat. Situated in a barn-like, cast-iron building on a hill just outside the town of Bordeaux from where we started our return train journey home, it is a sanctuary of modern design. The hospital-white bedrooms are temples to minimalism. A CD player, television, and telephone were the only splash of colour in our triangular-shaped room. The blinds and lights operated electronically from the bed, all of which offered a wonderful view over the vines, the Garonne valley, and Bordeaux. Not to forget the rectangular jettish bed.

Innovative maître d'hôtel Jean-Marie Amar moved his restaurant from Bordeaux to the enchanting village of Bouliac in 1981. Faithful food-lovers, including actress Beatrice Dalle, have since followed. We had the choice of eating at Le Bistrot or Café de l'Espérance, but plumped for the more formal dining room, which must be fantastic in the winter with its imposing fireplace. With 85 wines to choose from, it was once again left to the sommelier to select a delicious accompaniment to my roast lobster with potatoes and whole garlic cloves. Finishing with cannelles of Bordeaux among the delicate petits fours, it was not so easy this time toasting the end of our gilded adventure.

Symphony of silence in baroque style

We were about to enter St Nicholas's Church in Mala Strana, Prague's "Little Quarter", when a singer fired a round of staccato across the square. She was upstairs in a long neoclassical building, obviously practising for a concert. "Mozart," said my wife, "Haydn," said I.

Beside the church door was a board advertising the many concerts taking place in Prague that night. My wife, of course, was right: the voice had come from the Liechtenstein Palace, where Mozart was on the bill.

That in itself was no surprise. Prague is full of palaces (there are four in the square alone), as well as glittering baroque churches, and host to countless concerts. But other cities have those, too. What Prague has, uniquely, is silence — the silence that Mozart must have known when, in 1787, he went to St. Nicholas's to play the organ. It was the lack of traffic noise that allowed the soprano to surprise us.

Prague has one of the largest

Peter Brown catches strains of Mozart as he wends his way through the church-studded, car-free streets of the Czech Republic's capital

PRAGUE

pedestrianised areas in Europe. It starts in the castle area, descends to the Little Quarter, extends over the impossibly romantic 14th-century Charles Bridge, and continues on the other side of the river through the winding lanes of the Old Town.

Here the main attraction is the town hall clock. It was rebuilt in 1490 by a clockmaker called Hanus, said to have been blinded by the burghers in case he re-created his masterpiece elsewhere. It is the kind of urban myth that Kafka, who haunted the square, would have enjoyed.

We joined the crowd in the sunshine as the clock chimed, and we admired

the mechanical apostles as they rotated. We called in at a delicatessen, where the counter assistants were taking pride in their new plastic gloves. One of the attractions of Prague is watching its slow embrace with capitalism.

We were staying in the Hoffmeister, a four-star Relais & Châteaux hotel dedicated to the memory of Adolf Hoffmeister — globetrotter, bon vivant, artist and friend to the famous. Hundreds of his fine-lined portraits and caricatures lend an atmosphere of good humour to the hotel's corridors, dining room and bedrooms. They are also a reminder of Prague's wealth of Art Nouveau sculptures and buildings.

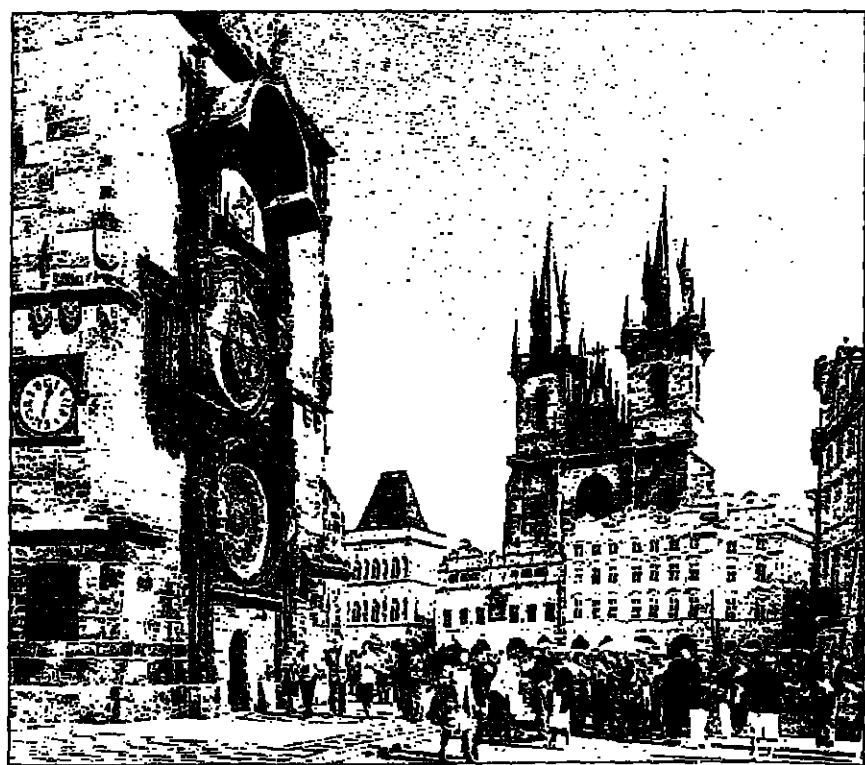
Adolf's son Martin, a film and theatre director, created the hotel and runs it. A genial, bearded figure, his sure hand is

backed by the friendly efficiency of the staff. He talks eloquently about Prague's traditions — puppet theatre, for example — and its history.

Another passion is wine. The Prague Wine Society meets in the hotel every month "and we select the best", he says. A bottle of Moravian wine accompanied an excellent dinner. The violinist, Karel Szelmeczy, and the timbalist, Tibor Gunar, would have graced any concert in Prague.

Next morning, a five-minute walk brought us to the castle complex. Here, surmounting the city, are the castle, a cathedral, five palaces, two towers, a basilica, a monastery and, once again, no cars. You could spend days in this part of Prague alone, enjoying the shrine of St Wenceslas and the medieval paintings.

To those of us who grew up with the Iron Curtain, cities such as Prague can still seem remote. To visit them now is to realise what we were missing. Quite simply, Prague puts Europe into context.



Time for sightseeing: the astronomical clock in the main square of Prague

RELAIS & CHATEAUX



Sheen Falls Lodge, Ireland: there are eight fantastic Irish hotels all waiting to welcome you. Travel to the Emerald Isle where the pace of life is much slower, where people still have time to chat and where you can completely unwind

Travel in style and save pounds with big discounts

To make your stay at a Relais & Châteaux hotel even more enjoyable, substantial travel discounts have been organised in association with Leisure Direction. You can also use them to take advantage of *Le Lunch*.

Leisure Direction specialises in providing a travel service for hotel breaks abroad. It has compiled a range of offers tailored for *Times* readers. These include money-saving fares for the duration of the Relais & Châteaux offer from September 22 to April 9 next year.

Taking the car gives you maximum flexibility and we have a number of offers that will make your journey even more attractive. The voyage across the Channel has become a part of the pleasure.

Stena Line's super ferries are floating entertainment complexes with casinos and children's playgrounds. By hovercraft, the Dover-Calais route takes just 35 minutes and you are served drinks and snacks airline-style.

All the cross-Channel prices quoted are for a car and five people, which makes the low-

Cross the Channel for less than £10? It's true, and there are many other offers to take advantage of whether you are making your journey by road, rail or sea. Follow this guide to cut costs and boost your spending power

est cost of the journey less than £10 per person. Leisure Direction can arrange a free upgrade to first class on Hoverspeed. It means you are given priority embarkation calls and priority loading and unloading of your car.

Head for Normandy or Brittany on Stena Line's Newhaven-Dieppe Sea Lynx, which takes just over two hours. There, Relais & Châteaux has 11 participating hotels. Or meander further, into the Loire valley, where there are seven.

Close to Calais is the blue-shuttered Château de Montreuil, set within the city walls, in a beautiful garden. For £140 for two, you can enjoy comfort and elegance as well as Christian Germain's perfectly prepared cuisine.

Further down the coast is La Ferme Saint-Siméon, a restored farm where you will discover

an exceptional wine list. You can luxuriate in the spa or visit nearby Honfleur. Save more than £70 on the price of a room plus dinner for two.

Towards Caen is the Château d'Audrieu, a protected historical monument where owners Gérard and Irène Livry-Level will give you a warm welcome. Here your passport price for a night of gourmet luxury and dinner is £80 for two.

For a break of up to five days, you could use the Harwich-Hook of Holland route from £94 per car. In Holland there are four hotels participating in the Passport to Europe promotion, including the Prinses Juliana. A Relais Gourmand establishment, it makes the best of bases for exploring the Roman catacombs at Valkenburg.

You could also travel to Ireland from Holyhead to

Dun Laoghaire from £154 by Stena Line ferry, or take a weekend return on the fastest craft, Stena Line High Speed Sea Service (HSS) for £174 per car. Both prices are for a car with five passengers.

In Ireland there are eight fantastic hotels all waiting to welcome you. On the farthest coast is Cashel House Hotel, Connemara. There you can enjoy long walks, go cycling, horseriding or fishing. Later, relax in front of a peat fire and dine on bounty from the sea. Enjoy an idyllic rendezvous and dinner for approximately £85 each.

To take a break at some of the participating Relais & Châteaux hotels in Slovenia, the Czech Republic or Norway, flying is the popular option. Leisure Direction can arrange flights to anywhere in Europe at the most competitive current prices.

In Germany there are 17 Relais & Châteaux to choose from. Fly to Berlin and in a quiet street near Tiergarten park, discover an expertly renovated turn of the century mansion, Hotel Brandenburger Hof. The winter garden is a pretty mix of an Italian abbey courtyard and a Japanese garden where you will enjoy the art exhibits and piano recitals. Two people can stay here and enjoy Euro-Asian cuisine for just £130.

In Italy there are 15 hotels to tempt you and Leisure Direction can book flights to Rome, Florence or Naples at the lowest fares. In Florence Relais & Châteaux has the Hôtel Regency (right), where you will be delighted with the quiet, light and spacious rooms adorned with antique mirrors. Eat in the Relais le Jardin or the magnificent dining room. The price for your meal and an overnight stay is £187 for two.

Close to Rome, with a flower-bedecked patio, swimming pool and private beach, is Il Pellicano. Relax in comfortable, calm rooms, tucked away between pines and cypresses. The price for dinner, bed and breakfast for two is £194.

Fly to Paris and you are spoilt for choice for Relais & Châteaux hotels as well as restaurants where you can treat yourself to *Le Lunch*. Leisure Direction can secure you a good deal on Eurostar. For day trippers Leisure Direction will obtain the best return fare, currently £69.

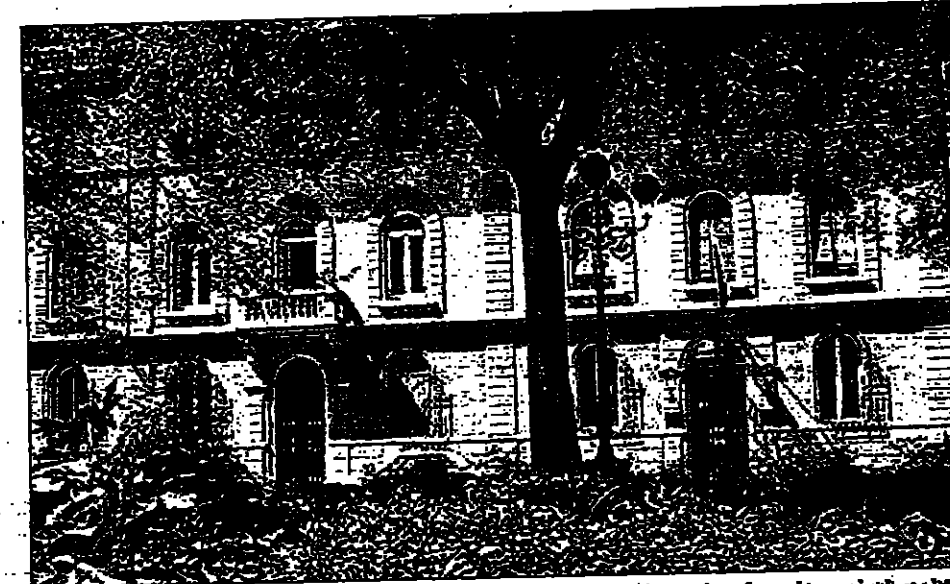
If you plan a longer stay, the standard fare is £169 but you will automatically be upgraded to first class with your Passport to Europe card. Normally the first class fare is £275, so you save £106.

There are eight splendid restaurants to choose from in Paris, all with two Michelin stars. Restaurant Faugeron, where Jean-Claude Jambon was voted the world's best sommelier in 1986, will present you with a great collection of French wines and brandies.

At Apicius the atmosphere is simple and charming, and Jean-Pierre Vigato's menu is a celebration of pure flavours. Or indulge yourself at Le Grand Véfour, a beacon of French gastronomy.

All the prices quoted are correct at the time of going to press, but may fluctuate and are subject to restricted space and availability. It is Leisure Direction's business to monitor the best value fares on a daily basis. So, if a new price emerges, you will be notified at the time you make your booking of the best fares available to suit your particular journey.

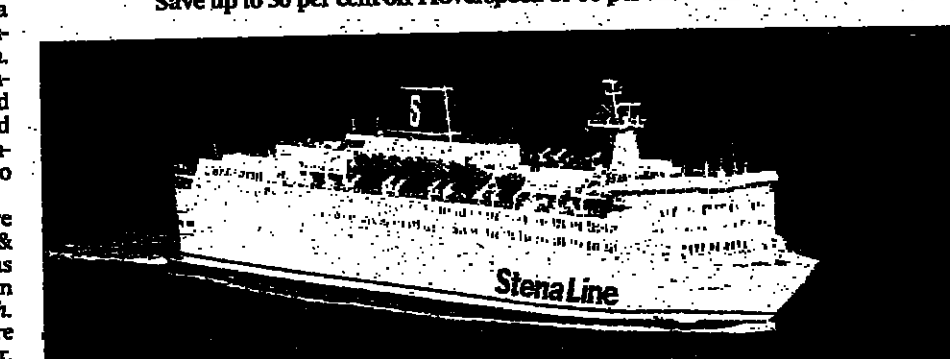
You are not obliged to collect any tokens, or apply for the Passport to Europe card to take advantage of these special travel deals. Leisure Direction has arranged a wide selection of special offers for *Times* readers with discounts on rail, cross-Channel and air travel. Many more special offer fares are just a phone call away.



Hôtel Regency, Florence: can you imagine a more romantic setting for a bargain break?



Save up to 50 per cent off Hoverspeed or 60 per cent with Stena Line



Stena Line

Simple steps to pleasure

Readers wishing to take advantage of this offer must have a *Times* Passport to Europe card and pack.

The pack contains the Relais & Châteaux 1997 International Guide, your Passport to Europe discount card, a concise and detailed listing of the 180 participating hotels, the 175 restaurants offering *Le Lunch*, a full list of travel offers and all terms and conditions.

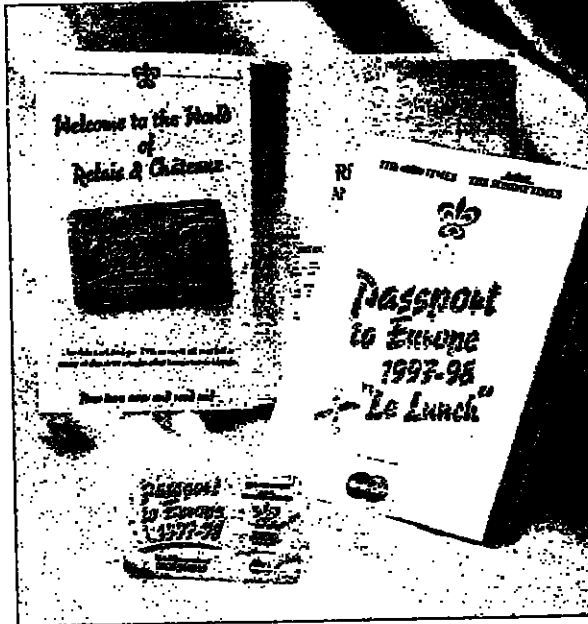
The coupon below must be accompanied by four differently numbered tokens. The coupon and tokens must be cut from *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*. No photocopied coupons or tokens will be accepted. The offer is limited to one application per household. The offer is valid for unlimited

stays at the 180 hotels from September 22, 1997 to April 9, 1998 and is strictly subject to availability.

All hotel bookings must be made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel(s), making reference to *The Times* Passport to Europe offer at the time of booking.

Reservations under the terms of this promotion are non-commissionable. The card must be presented to the hotel reception on arrival. All travel bookings must be made directly with Leisure Direction at least ten days before departure, making reference to *The Times* Passport to Europe offer at the time of booking.

All travel bookings are subject to availability and restricted to space.



HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR PASSPORT TO EUROPE PACK

To get your *Times*/Relais & Châteaux Passport to Europe Pack simply collect four tokens from *The Times*. Seven will be printed up to and including Saturday August 23, 1997. Then complete this coupon and send it to:

The *Times*/Relais & Châteaux offer, Leisure Direction, Image House, Station Road, London N17 9LR, to arrive no later than September 30, 1997. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS:

Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies each week)?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐

THE TIMES



TOKEN 1

Title _____ Initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime tel _____

super
bet



SHOP

SAVE UP TO 50% OFF
0950 329102

oil yourself
with the
of time



FREE
0151 0099
Sewills

The supermodels with straw between the ears

On the Richter scale of the bizarre, Groombridge Place, near Royal Tunbridge Wells, manages a pretty hefty rumble. An outstanding example of Restoration architecture, once the venue for Sir Conan Doyle's seances and latterly the backdrop for Peter Greenaway's film *The Draughtsmen's Contract*, it recently played host to a scarecrow festival.

The highlight of the festival was an auction of showbusiness clothes in aid of Save the Children. However, there were no catwalks or popping flashguns here — all the designer rags were sported by a remarkably tantrum-free posse of straw supermodels.

Mick Jagger donated a jacket, Vivienne Westwood a dress, Mike Flowers a cravat, Tania Bryer a green suit, Peter Davison an entire outfit, and Mari Pellow from *West End* gave a crushed red velvet suit that he had worn on *Top of the Pops* and a pair of blue velvet trousers with a ripped seat. Although each was modelled by a ravishing corn dolly, Mr Davison turned out to be the only one brave enough to agree to be photographed beside the prickly, slightly uneasy figures.

"This is the first time I've met a scarecrow face to face," he said, "being a town sort of person."

This kind of bizarre happening does not seem odd in the area around Kent and East Sussex. "Welcome to East Grinstead," reads the sign on the A22, underneath which one thoughtful local has scribbled "twinned with the Twilight Zone". As well as being home to some unusual cults (and the Alpine Hotel for Cats), there is Michael Hall School, probably one of the few buildings in the country to have been constructed without a single right angle, and a Tarris road which became the first to get acupuncture when the key lines beneath it were deemed to be causing too much suffering.

Groombridge Place itself is a haven of the weird and magical, with an astounding collection of strange gardens, including the Hime Garden, the Serpent's Lair with its giant, roof-tile snakes and tiny hand-branch cobwebs, the 1st Valley of the Grooms and the Holy Mystic Pool, part of the enchanted Forest in which thorns, mirrors and glitterballs are

Sartorial scarecrows have been showing off celebrity clothes in aid of a good cause — and with not a tantrum in sight



Mick Jagger donated a jacket and Vivienne Westwood a dress

said to conspire to capture part of each visitor's soul. There are also fields of blazing sunflowers (Pick Your Own), a restored Victorian kitchen garden, a gift shop, a Japanese garden, a vineyard and the wonderful Dymliken Garden — so named because all the topiary around the carp pool appears to be staggering and stumbling.

The sight of a crowd of scarecrows in this setting seems anything but incongruous — even if they include a strapping great-straw *Chaplin*, a hippy scarecrow, a Sibone Ranger version (complete with Harvey Nichols bag and a copy of *Country Life*), one made of papier-mâché, another clad in a diving suit and a Freddie

Mercury lookalike. Ivan Hicks is Groombridge's resident land artist and designer of many of the estate's imaginative gardens. Hicks is fascinated with *objets trouvés* and peppers his gardens with tin chests, dressing mirrors, rotary saw blades and deer skulls.

The same technique informed his two contributions to the Scarecrow Festival: Terri Cotta, a lady made from terracotta flowerpots, and a 12ft Rastafarian scarecrow made from sunflowers, a bicycle wheel, fish net, a skylight from a portable luo, two poles and a windbreak.

"I prefer to work like that," says Mr Hicks, "because it actually gives you parameters. With the Rastafarian, I put the big sunflower

in for eyes, and one of them went a bit crooked, and suddenly he just looked stoned. Wonderful.

As for Terri Cotta, she has a strawberry pot for the head, which was a brilliant find because you can see faces in the holes. I was going to give her ivy for hair, but I thought, no, with all these holes she's already four-faced. And, of course, she's an airhead."

Local sculptor Anthony Paul Smitherman, famous for his native American-inspired work, built a 22ft high scarecrow entirely of straw and hessian as the festival's frontpiece. Sadly, it died in a *Wicker Man*-type death before the festivities began. "It was a light-hearted piece, most enjoyable," he says. "But it was also very flammable, and was razed to the ground one night mid-festival, presumably by drunkards."

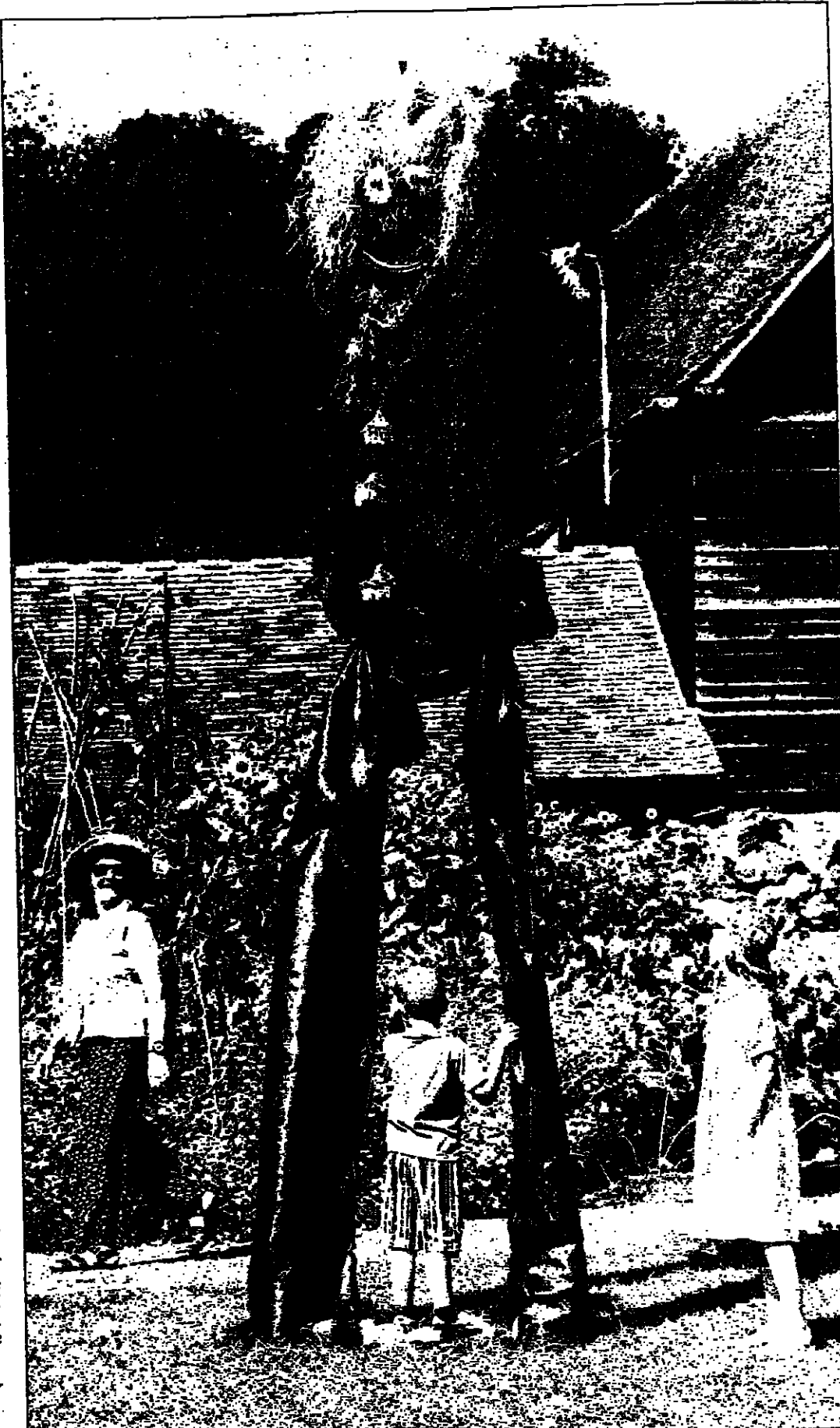
The idea for a Scarecrow Festival came from Emma Pette, Groombridge's events supremo. "I was brought up on a farm," she explains, "and scarecrows are lovely characters in the countryside, so I thought, why not do a festival?"

Raising money for charity also appealed to her, although the amounts raised at the auction were nothing like they imagined. Tania Bryer's suit was sold for £40, a £50 phone bid was taken for Vivienne Westwood's dress and Mike Flowers' cravat went for £25. Mari Pellow's suit and Mick Jagger's jacket raised slightly more: the former went for £70 and the latter for £200 to Mark Powell, who made it in the first place and sold it for £500.

"I didn't expect to buy anything at all," Powell says later. "I'm not even a Rolling Stones fan, I'm a Beatles fan. But Beatles stuff is sold for fortunes, so it's got to be a good investment. I'll just wrap it in tissue and mothballs and put it away — unless somebody phones me and offers me an incredible amount of money for it. Then I must be tempted. I only bought it because I thought it was cheap." He grins. "Perhaps I should have left the Mars bar wrapper in the pocket."

JASON HAZELEY

● Groombridge Place gardens, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent (01892 863009) are open daily from 10am till dusk: adults £5, children £3.50



High life: the 12ft Rastafarian scarecrow made from sunflowers, fish net and a windbreak

SHOPAROUND

See See TV
Security Cameras
DIRECT

SAVE UP TO 50% ON RETAIL PRICES

Video Camera	£199	£99.50
Portable Spy Camera	£149	£74.50
Handheld Camera	£199	£99.50
Security Camera	£199	£99.50
Video Camera	£199	£99.50
Handheld Camera	£199	£99.50
Security Camera	£199	£99.50

0990 329102

GREEN RIVER ROLL-UP PANAMAS

SAME DAY MAILING £28

Genuine Panama hats hand-woven in Ecuador. The lady's style is provided with a (separate) decorative silk flower. For that special gift, we can mail either hat rolled in a Presentation-Balasswood Travel Box for an additional £3.50.

Order by phone or send a cheque/PO to:
The Green River Trading Co Ltd
39 Eskine Hill, London NW11 6EY

TELEPHONE 0181 458 0047

Spoil yourself with the gift of time.

For your **FREE** brochures containing over 150 Watches, Chronometers, Clocks, Barometers and Barographs complete the coupon or phone on:

0151 708 0099

Quote ref: 71-1808

Sewills
Watchmaker to the Admiralty
— Estd 1800 —

COBURN HOUSE, 24 CORNHILL, LIVERPOOL L1 6DZ

Please send your colour brochure to me
Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

MALE IMPOTENCE

THE SOLUTION.

The solution can be much easier than you think. Discover why so many men have already resumed normal loving relationships thanks to discreet new treatments that are simple, safe and effective. No longer should any man suffer alone — the answer to impotence, premature ejaculation and any questions you may have can be found at the Central Clinic. To obtain your copy of our confidential free booklet within 48 hours, please **FREEPHONE** one of our experienced male advisors on:

0800 357581

or return the **FREEPOST** coupon below.

The Central Clinic

Please send me my free book: 'Male Impotence - All your questions answered' in complete confidence.

Name _____ Tel No _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel No _____

15 CLINICS NATION-WIDE

THE CENTRAL CLINIC, FREEPOST 40 ALM1635, LONDON W1E 7LJ

JOIN OUR WINTER CRUISE TO THE CARIBBEAN

Tropical Islands Cruise

15 NIGHTS FROM ONLY £999
Departs on Saturday November 22, 1997

Times readers are offered the opportunity to escape before winter sets in and cruise to the Caribbean on the three-star Princess Danae.

You will have days to rest at sea and appreciate the ship's many facilities, such as the swimming pool, tennis court, bars and restaurants. The ship will sail to Funchal, the capital of Madeira, before heading for the West Indies. You will have plenty of time to visit some of the finest scenery in the Caribbean and explore the cultures on the picturesque islands of Barbados, St Lucia, St Kitts, Antigua and Guadeloupe.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- 15 nights accommodation.
- Scheduled flight from London Heathrow or Manchester to Lisbon.
- Flight from Guadeloupe to London or Manchester via Paris.
- All meals, entertainment and leisure facilities on board.
- Services of the ship's staff throughout the cruise.
- Return transfers between the airports and ship.
- All port and airport taxes.

ITINERARY: Day 1 Fly London Heathrow or Manchester to Lisbon. Transfer to Princess Danae: Day 2 at sea: Day 3 Funchal: Days 4-9 at sea: Day 10 Barbados: Day 11 St Lucia: Day 12 St Kitts: Day 13 Antigua: Day 14 Guadeloupe: Day 15 Disembark in Guadeloupe and transfer for flight to UK: Day 16 arrive back in UK.

CABINS AVAILABLE:
(prices per person)

£999 Standard two-bed inside
£1099 Standard two-bed outside
£1299 Superior two-bed outside
£1899 Suite
£2299 Veranda Suite

This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays Limited, a company independent of Times Newspapers Limited
ABTA V106X ATOL 2172

FOR FURTHER DETAILS SEND THIS COUPON TO:
The Times Tropical Islands Cruise, Festive Holidays Ltd, Pate Court, North Place, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 4DY

THE TIMES - Tropical Islands Cruise
Please forward a brochure to:

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

☐ Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Times Newspapers or companies which may be of interest.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL NOW ON 0990 553355 (24 HRS)

"It seems awfully quiet, suddenly. On my hands and knees in the flowerbed, I find myself chatting to the contents of my borders"

Linda, our wonder-nanny, is still away — taking a well-earned break from domesticating Alexander, so he has gone off for a further week in the country. I am hoping that all this bucolic exposure will eradicate a few of his more shocking urban-child afflictions — his habit of referring to any large expanse of land as a park, for example; also his deep distrust of animals. Offered a ride on a very small pony with the action and temperament of a wheelchair, he declined with alarm: "Actually, I think it's a bit too dangerous."

I, meanwhile, finding myself suddenly free of all responsibilities, save that of earning a living, have a rare opportunity to revert for a few days to being the nippy girl I once was, before being overtaken by the strange, ruminative, slow-moving world of motherhood. Good gracious, I could take myself off and see a film, or an actual prom played by a real orchestra, instead of the tinned version on Radio 3. I could (I think, rather wildly) go out dancing, having first removed from my handbag the wodge of tissues, packet of Mr Bump plasters, juice-in-box, copy of *Postman Pat's Difficult Day* and scale model of a John Deere tractor

from which I am never normally parted. I suppose I might even consider *Going On A Date*, now that a couple of years have, if not precisely erased, at least to some extent dimmed the charming memory of the last one.

It was a very grown-up affair, that last date. Great squashy red plush seats at the theatre, and dinner afterwards with two sorts of wine and lots of different knives and forks, and then a lift home in a large car with air conditioning like a rushing mighty wind. What with one thing and another, I had really begun to feel quite like my real self again, and not just the appendage known as Alexander's Mummy. Even the details of the tricky potty-training endgame in which Linda and I were obsessively engaged had as good as faded from my mind.

Until, "Well," said the Date, eventually, rising to leave, "We must do this again very soon." "Ooh, yes, that would be lovely," said I, keenly. And then, in my best child-quelling voice, "Now then, it's

a very long drive home, so I think that, before you get into the motor car, you'd better go and do a wee-wee, don't you ...?" Oh crickey. Even now it makes me go goose-pimples all over just thinking about it.

On second thoughts, it may be wisest to leave it for another decade or so before making a further attempt at the dating game. I resolve to give the house a really good going over and hold an elegant little dinner party instead. I make a list: "Hoover bags, mackerel, gooseberries, clot crm", and drive up to Blackheath, where I have a long discussion with the fishmonger, for once unpunctuated by cries of "Darling,

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

please don't do that!", about the virtues of Heads On versus Heads Off. I wander up and down the high street, looking in the shops, where I find a pretty little amethyst brooch and a copy of Nicholas Mosley's *Life of Ramon Raynes*, which I have been after for ages. No one says Boring Bookshop, Boring Jewellery Shop. Why can't we go to the toyshop now? This is bliss, I think.

Back home, I drift out into the garden with a glass of wine and water the plants. Then I remember that I did exactly the same thing last night. Probably I have now overwatered them and they will all die. Perhaps I will do some weeding

instead. It seems awfully quiet, suddenly. On my hands and knees in the flowerbed, I find myself chatting to the contents of my borders. "Hallo," I say, to something small and green. "Are you a little weed or a little flower?"

"First sign of madness," says my next-door-neighbour, Violet ("I'm 34 and all me own teeth"), popping her head over the trellis and then ripping back indoors, cackling and rattling her jewellery, before I can think of anything sensible to say in reply.

Violet is right, of course. With all this unaccustomed time on my hands, I have been having a really good worry about what strikes me as my rapidly advancing senility. I mean, I am barely dabbling my toes in the shallows of middle age, but already the signs of decrepitude have set in.

For a start, I can't hear anything. Meals with my parents are like a scene from Kingsley Amis's *Ending Up*, with

the three of us (they can't hear either) all going "Eh?" "Speak UP!" "Don't gabble" and so on. And Alexander is clearly getting awfully tired of a conversation we seem to have at least once a week, which goes:

Alexander: "... (Indistinct mumble at my waist level)

Me: (Bending double) "What, darling?"

A: (Indistinctly) "Pardon."

Me: (Exasperated) "What? Oh DO speak up!"

A: (Loudly) "I said PARDON. Linda says it's very rude to say What."

Then there is the memory loss. Before we went on holiday, I stowed various little objects that I am fond of — the ivory glove-stretchers, the little blue vase with cherubs on it — in a safe hiding place. So safe that, now we are back, I cannot recall where it was. In the vast tracts of silent time that seem to have opened up in the mornings before I go to work, I roam the house distractedly, searching for something. Perhaps it is my blue vase with the cherubs on it. Or perhaps it is simply that, with no one here to boss about, I don't quite know what I am for any more.

JEREMY YOUNG



Scottish dancing is a serious business and newcomers should not make the mistake of thinking of it as a free expression of the soul. Like all tribal mating rituals, dances have complicated steps and nobody will sympathise if you get them wrong.

The midges of Scotland are sharpening their proboscises in readiness for the army of unprotected flesh about to descend on their mountain homelands. As happens every August, the British upper middle classes are packing their Volvos and heading north.

"So by the M40 and the M6 and the A74 they shall go, via the M8 and on to the A9," lolls the non-traditional ballad.

The Scottish house party, so integral in literature, from Trollope and Mitford to the detective stories of Ngaio Marsh (unity of cast, of place, of time, remote location and enough inter-guest irritation/local feuds to make murder a credible outcome) is here. In the coming few weeks the Scots and their guests will pack in the social life the rest of the country ekes out over an entire year. But these gatherings are as full of pitfalls for the unwary — in custom, dress and differences of language — as a boat trip up the Yangtze River.

Recognisable by their plumage — mainly dun-coloured tweeds — the old Scottish hands who annually migrate are well aware of a fact that should soon be confirmed when the results of the September 11 devolution referendum are published that Scotland is a foreign country and they do things differently there.

One husband described it as "like being married to a Tibetan." If you went to Tibet, you could take an interpreter and guide books to tell you what to wear, what to bring, what to say. Scotland, just because it is joined to England by land, is bereft of these useful publications. So *The Times*, in the way that New Labour has made Focus Groups in vogue, brought together some veterans in a house party for the Glorious Twelfth to remove some of the hazards awaiting the first-time Highlander.

People who consider the essence of urban sophistication will metamorphose on the A9, like Kafka's cockroach, into Scots. There is no point in trying to fight the transformation: resistance is useless and will only end in misery, agreed the Focus Group. You must alter your expectations and embrace the differences. Only then, what could be compared to Basic Training at Sandhurst will be fun.

Metamorphose too. Hurl yourself into freezing lochs, jeering at the Mediterranean tans hyper-ventilating on the heater. "Bring your own Alka-Seltzer,"

There's an art to being a guest at a Scottish house party, as a Times Focus Group discovered. Do, say or wear the wrong thing and you may not be invited back. Charlotte Eager, reports

was a piece of advice that every Focus Group member wrote in their questionnaire, "and midge repellent" (this year's top tip is that Clarins makes a combination anti-midge and sunscreen: "lots of cigarettes" (the nearest shop may be tens of miles away and the midges drive to chain-smoking the most dilettante of social smokers; "wads of cash" (you'll need fivers to tip the dailies). As a present, bring good cheese: only orange Scottish Cheddar is available north of the Highland Line. "Always help with the clearing up," added an older Focus Group member with feeling: however grand the house may look, you can guarantee your hostess will spend a lot of time up to her elbows in the washing-up. "Never, ever, park behind your host's Land-Rover," said a member with once-flamed car.

Bloody Marys in hand, the Focus

Group went round the room, as though at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, relating their most embarrassing experience. One, mistaking his reclusive host, his new girlfriend's father, for a guest, asked if he was staying too. The relationship didn't last. Another had reversed over the day's bag, reducing to pâté the few grouse which had been shot. (It's been a bad year for the grouse ever since anyone can remember.)

Once put food poisoning and spent the whole of the Oban Ball throwing up in the lavatory, but I was too embarrassed to complain to my hostess. As a result, she thought I was drunk and never asked me back.

Never make the mistake, as I once did, of getting a lift in an Argocat (a kind of Action Man accessory which looks like an eight-wheeled

rubber dinghy) without wearing a bra. There is no suspension and moors are very bumpy.

Boss furiously those unfortunates who don't know how to reel, and don't make the mistake of thinking dancing should be a free expression of the soul. Like all tribal mating rituals, Scottish dances have extremely complicated steps and nobody will sympathise if you get them wrong. Revise *The Swinging Sporan* — bible of the reeling classes — in snatched moments in the bath. And always grab the first bath when you get back to the house: the further north, the ropier the hot water supply.

Be warned, some male Focus Groups members find shooting very erotic. Sex and death, they point out, have always been linked.

But the most important tip the Focus Group agreed on was that you need to take an inordinate

number of clothes. Scottish house parties divide into shooting and dancing, both with rigid uniforms. My indispensable luggage fills up the back of a Ford Fiesta. The climate will change from bucketing rain to burning heat and you must be prepared for every eventuality.

The uniform list is as elaborate as for school: the layers of jerseys should it get hot, should all be dun-coloured, otherwise you'll scare the grouse. You need indoor and outdoor shoes, walking boots, gumboots, trainers and evening shoes (that's one suitcase full already), but not strappy little stilettos, because Scottish dancing requires a lot more than a little sexy swaying: your shoes have to combine elegance with the kind of practicality which would allow you to challenge Linford Christie in a 100-yard dash.

Manolo Blahnik, agreed the Focus group, should make shoes for reeling with steel toe caps (protection from kilned stompers) and rubber soles (braking).

The Northern Meeting in Inverness, the Oban and Skye balls started two centuries ago for local

gentry to find suitable mates, are still going strong. My sister met her husband at the Northern Meeting and consolidated their courtship on Skye. Focus Group women agreed on three vital points. Firstly, make sure your dress stays up; secondly, that it reaches the ground — your hostess will staple strips of sheets round your hem to cover your offending ankles, detracting from the glamour of your frock; thirdly, the man exuding breath-taking sex appeal in his kilt is still the same pimply youth you met at breakfast.

But don't despair if you're already packed only PVC trousers and a mini-dress. The Focus Group, (dressed in hand-me-downs), has noticed that British Airways is losing everybody's luggage this year. If hit by a clothing crisis, just tell your hostess your bags have gone astray. You will get endless sympathy and probably invited to borrow her tweeds.

The final tip the Focus Group all agreed on is: if in doubt, ask don't bluff. Even the frostiest dowager will melt if applied to as an expert, and this will help you avoid the worst house-party crime of all: to do something so terrible that you are Never Asked Again.

The camaraderie created by beating the elements have turned the Scottish House Party into one of the best forms of fun.

Ruth Gledhill hears a plea by City businessmen and women for a Nigerian pastor threatened with deportation



TO GIVE spiritual encouragement to those left to keep the City of London markets turning while colleagues disappear to sunspots around the world, a group of leading businessmen has taken over the Tuesday lunchtime ministry of St Helen's Bishopsgate while the rector, Prebendary Dick Lucas, takes a well-earned break.

Beginning the series, which continues for another two weeks, was Mike Farmer, the managing director of the Metal and Commodity Company. But before the service began, a separate group from St Helen's launched a campaign in an attempt to save a former church caretaker from deportation.

The story of Frank Omoriege, his wife Juliet and their two British-born children, aged six and three, was complex and seemingly hope-

The family who live with fear

less. He and his wife arrived in Britain in early 1989 on visitor visas, at the invitation of Christ Gospel Church in Brixton, south London. A few weeks later, Omoriege's father and brother were murdered in Nigeria, thought to be as a result of Omoriege's outspoken criticism of an allegedly satanic cult. He applied for asylum here. This was rejected and he and his family now live in fear of being detained for deportation at any moment.

After the campaign launch, dozens more young, smart-suited businessmen and women filed into the church for the 40-minute weekday

service. It opened with prayers for Mr Omoriege, who is now a pastor in Brixton.

Mr Farmer did not refer to the family's plight in his address. His topic was "Motivation for serving: why should we care?" He described how difficult it was to keep focused on this motive when surrounded by the demands of job security, profit and loss, and other features of City life. "How often in the past year has a meeting or telephone call kept us from being here on Tuesday lunchtimes?" he asked.

At this point, my mobile phone went off. It was the newsdesk



Seeking asylum: Frank Omoriege

demanding my return. The Archbishop of Canterbury had just said that if the Prince of Wales remarried the Church would be plunged into crisis. Should I leave or hear Mr Farmer out. I waited for guidance. The Ten Commandments were of little help. Still I waited. Then it came. "Do not let Satan, father of lies, prince of this world, prince of this city, fool you that work, money,

job security, this meeting or that telephone call are more important," Mr Farmer said. I resolved to stay, praying that Mr Farmer would pay my mortgage if this cost me my job. But time had run out, the service was over. I sprinted back to Wapping — to find almost the entire newsdesk out to lunch.

● St Helen's Bishopsgate, London EC3A 6AT (0171-283 2231).



WE RECEIVED thousands of entries to the Times Cherry Coke Surfing competition. (August 2) to win a limited-edition hand-crafted surfboard worth £1,500, made by the master surfboard-craftsman Simon Liddy. The answer to the question "Who were the two male stars of the film *Point Break*?" was Patrick Swayze and Keanu Reeves. And the first correct answer came from David Beggs, of Kimsford, Cheshire. Mr Beggs, all whose family are surfers, will receive his prize next week.

سنة ١٤١٩



A wander
in a forest
frozen
in time

New Mexico - 20

THE TIMES

travel

The
hidden
face of
Jerez

Spain - 19



Even after a good lunch the Duchess never did this

Ride a flying banana, walk underwater or
simply eat and drink like the Yorks on their
honeymoon — you can do it all on Mauritius

They're a funny lot, the Royal Family. When the Duke and Duchess of York stayed in Mauritius during their honeymoon in 1986 they were given sole use of a tiny private island just off the coast. They held up in their beach villa for a week with the curtains drawn, watching Arnold Schwarzenegger videos, playing a board game called Royal Trivia and ordering steak sandwiches from room service.

The jetskis and sailing boats at their disposal sat askew on the sand and they'll never know what they missed — unless they read this, of course. To be fair, the Duke and Duchess were not put into the care of the formidable Sally Curtis, a kind of Joan Hunter Dunn in overdrive who was determined that none of the island's pleasures should escape us. Not only did we go water skiing and riding, we pulled on an inflatable banana behind a speedboat and go walking on the ocean bed wearing glass helmets, but we still found time to eat and drink like royalty should.

On arriving at the Sugar Beach Resort, cocktails appeared, the band struck up and beautiful Creole dancers waved their skirts about in a kind of Indian Ocean cancan. The Sugar Beach is a picture: pastel-coloured villas set around the main plantation-style house, a pool like the blue lagoon and the sea 20ft from your back door. The villas are on a generous scale, two vast beds, cavernous bathrooms — even the soap was like a little rugby ball. Sarongs and T-shirts are provided free for all guests, a brilliant idea since it means you can hit the beach without unpacking.

Later we repaired to the terrace to eat Creole-style chicken and drink glorious South African wines. The hotel was full but quiet. The few little herbets I had seen were obviously being entertained somewhere discreet.

Hotel managers always want to tell you about their famous guests. The Duke of Edinburgh, it transpired, had stayed next door at La Pirogue, a pretty hotel with thatched chalets. He took his own large wicker hamper filled with bottles of Scotch, gin and brandy. When hotel staff asked his valet why he had done so, the valet said: "In case his plane comes down in the desert." Perhaps he is not such a bad old cove after all. Gary Lineker is also a Mauritius fan, apparently, and so is Paul Gascoigne (but they asked me not to mention that).

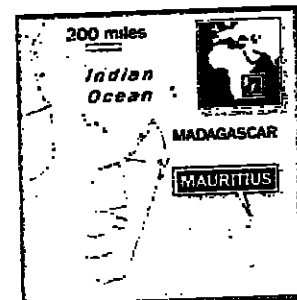
After lunch Sally frog-marched us off to see the tennis courts (seven), hairdressing salon and massage parlour, the scuba diving centre, the crèche (one small herbett) and the gym (gratifyingly empty). Most Sugar Beach clients seemed content to lie on their sun loungers and flop into the shallow end like well-fed otters when the heat became too much. Good for them, I say. The only signs of real activity were the man with the refrigerated drinks trolley and the Cape sparrows which hopped along in his wake picking up dropped peanuts.

Splendid though it is, it would be a shame for Sugar Beach to seduce you away entirely from the cultural patchwork that is Mauritius. British, French, Creole, Indian and Chinese live here in harmony but they are proba-

bly too full of good food and drink for it to be otherwise.

Mauritius is the size of Surrey and a dot in the Indian Ocean. It is volcanic, but not actively, and the mountains sit rather oddly among flat fields of sugar cane dotted with volcanic boulders. Its highlands are home to spectacular birds and wildlife but not, unfortunately, the indigenous dodo which was hunted to extinction by early settlers.

From a hilltop fortress we looked down on Port Louis, the capital, a scruffy city of concrete blocks interspersed with churches, mosques, ornate temples and the arena where the Pope addressed the faithful when he came here. Twenty per cent of the population lives in Port Louis and they all seemed to be in the market at the same time. This vibrant but malodorous place looked like a tribute to salmonella. There were flies on the fruit and the meat looked terrifying



but the cooks in our group said the spices were good value. We liked the herbalist's stall and its signs — *Hemoroïde*, *Aphrodisiaque*, *Goutte Militaire*. A man in our party was offered a cure for impotence ("You boil it for 12 minutes," the herbalist said bafflingly). Our man blushed furiously while we hooted with laughter and promised not to tell a soul if he gave us £50 each.

We saw hardly any other tourists in Port Louis. Most seem content to stay in their

hotels. The ones we saw were extraordinarily opulent. The Saint Geran was aristocratic, the Coco Beach all quirk and colour like a child's drawing, and in Le Touessrok you could almost smell the banknotes — hardly surprising since a leading member of the Russian mafia was renting the honeymoon suite.

Sally had been trying to persuade us that walking on the ocean bed was an experience not to be missed and after a vast lunch and several bottles of wine we agreed. On the way, someone told a story of pearl fishermen of old who were at the end of a line when a storm broke out. The crew of the ship cut the lines and left them to a watery death. We all went a bit quiet after that but Sally told him firmly to stop being silly. It is very simple: you put on a weight belt and a glass helmet with a tube leading from it and pad about like

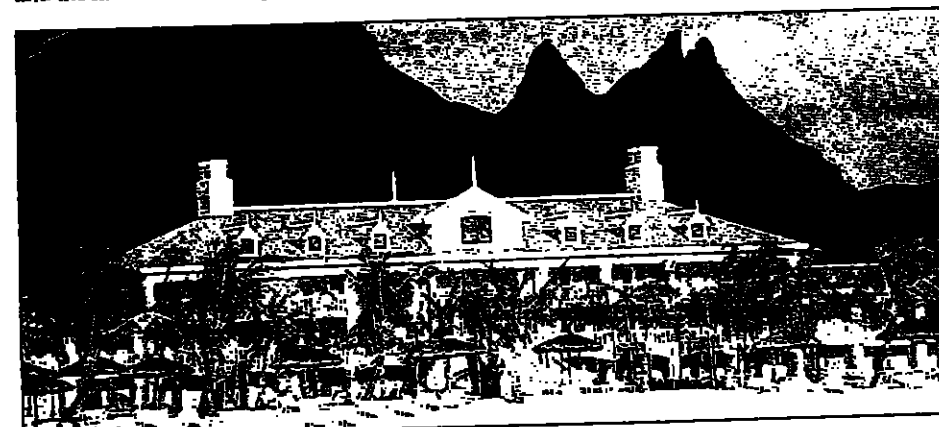
underwater astronauts while fish come along to have a good look at you and nibble bread from your fingers. And all for £20. Marvellous.

That evening we had dinner under the stars at Sugar Beach while a beautiful girl sang a convincing impersonation of Whitney Houston — Mauritian make very good music. Afterwards Sally was still fizzing like a crate of pop and persuaded us to go next door to the casino at La Pirogue where we lost all our money.

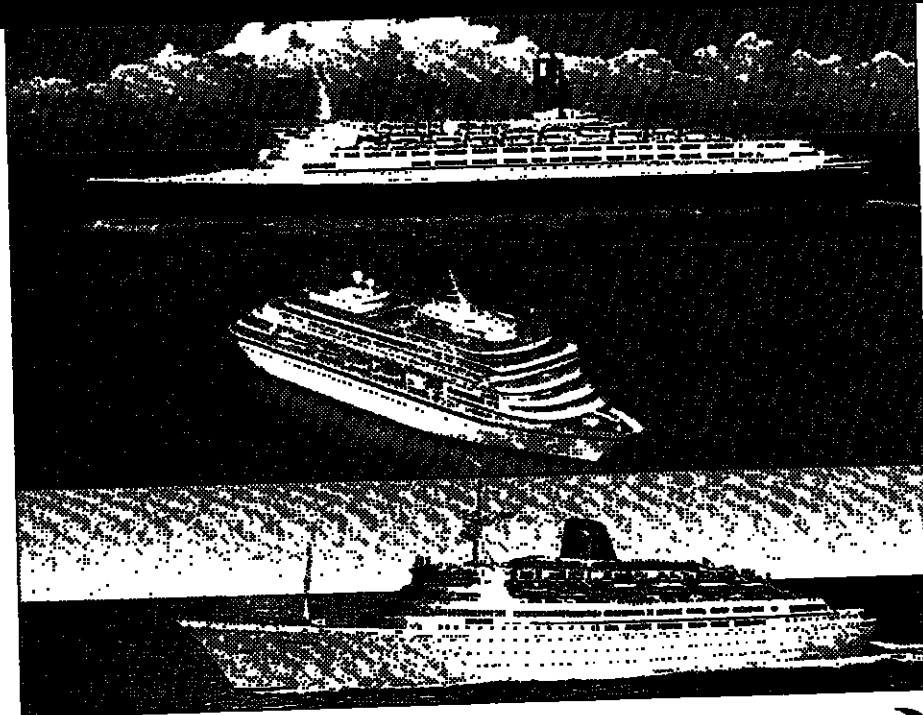
On our last day we had an incredible lunch on the thatched dining terrace at the Saint Geran — heart of palm salad, pan-fried fish and strawberry baskets. Afterwards I thought I might have a little snooze under a palm tree but the one-woman headwave had other ideas. Five of us were ordered to the beach for a trip on the flying banana, a long inflatable thing with six seats on top, attached to a speedboat. It was great fun, although what the sunbathers thought of this motley crew does not bear thinking about.

Before we could get our breath back we found ourselves at the Coco Beach riding school, hats squashed on our heads, legs being put into boots like children being dressed for school and horses trotted out according to our capabilities. They took one look at my Thelwell technique and switched me to a nice little Dobbin. My chums got enormous great beasts and did not bat an eyelid. They cantered off into the surf at full tilt while I lolloped along in their wake like a bag of laundry, thinking that perhaps the Duchess of York had had the right idea after all.

MARY GOLD



The Sugar Beach resort is designed in the style of a sugar plantation house



Three magnificent ships.
Hundreds of fabulous cruises.
One essential '98 brochure.

Plus masses of early booking savings!

Only Cunard offers you such a tempting choice of cruising styles for '98. The grandeur of the one and only QE2. The classic elegance of Vistafjord. The sophistication and spaciousness of Royal Viking Sun. Only Cunard could dream up such a superb choice of desirable destinations worldwide. And only Cunard would offer such generous early booking discounts too. So get your copy of Cunard's 'Art of Cruising' brochure now. It's the only one you'll need.

For a brochure call:
0800 000 500
quoting TIM/B1 or
to book,
see your travel agent or
call Cunard on:
01703 634166
www.cunardline.com

To: Cunard, Brochure Dept, FREEPOST SL2163, Slough SL1 4BR.
Please send me a copy of 'The Art of Cruising' brochure.

Name
Address
Postcode Tel no



QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 • ROYAL VIKING SUN • VISTAFJORD

CUNARD

Where else in the world.

CUNARD, SOUTH WESTERN HOUSE, CANUTE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON SO14 3NR.

ATUL 34

Troupes of Creole dancers and cocktails greet tourists at Sugar Beach resort

FACT FILE

■ Air Mauritius (0171-434 4375) offers flights from Heathrow or Manchester to Mauritius from £635.

■ Sunset Travel (0171-498 9922) offers seven nights half board at Sugar Beach with flights from £1,200 per person. Kuoni (01306 743000) has a similar package from £1,348.

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Culture Shock! Mauritius* by Roseine NgCheong-Lum (Kuperard, £7.95). *Bradt Guide, Mauritius* (£11.95).

■ Orders for the Royal Trivia board game can be placed on 0831 348258.

TRAVEL

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
0171 481 1999 (TRADE)
0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)
FAX: 0171 782 7824

CHECK-IN

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

dest. town	one way	return	dest. town	one way	return
SYDNEY	£336	£589	NEW YORK	£128	£199
PERTH	£329	£581	BOSTON	£148	£209
CARIBBEAN	£336	£589	CHICAGO	£157	£229
AUCKLAND	£363	£659	FLORIDA	£175	£259
HONG KONG	£242	£374	LOS ANGELES	£202	£270
SINGAPORE	£242	£374	SAN FRANCISCO	£221	£270
BEIJING	£253	£385	LAS VEGAS	£221	£270
TOKYO	£218	£347	DENVER	£221	£270
	£275	£485	TORONTO	£221	£270
			VANCOUVER	£221	£270
			AROUND THE WORLD	£577	

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £31 • AFRICA £31 • PACIFIC £48 • ASIA £27

USA CAR HIRE FROM £12 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

AUSTRALIA FROM £759 RETURN
INCLUDES 7 DAYS CAR HIRE*
& FLIGHTS WITH SINGAPORE AIRLINES

BOOK NOW FOR TRAVEL IN NOVEMBER
*BASED ON 2 PEOPLE TRAVELLING

NOTES • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • INSURING YOUR TRAVEL

Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop.

Trailfinders offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1970, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 65% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE
CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

... people think the world of us!

42-50 Earls Court Road
Long Haul Travel:
194 Kensington High Street
Long Haul Travel:
First & Business Class:
215 Kensington High Street
Transatlantic & European:
22-24 The Priory Queensway
Worldwide Travel:
48 Corn Street
Worldwide Travel:
254-284 Sauchiehall Street
Worldwide Travel:
58 Deansgate
Worldwide Travel:
First & Business Class:

LONDON W8 6BT
0171-938 3366
LONDON W8 7RG
0171-938 3333
0171-938 3444
LONDON W8 6BD
0171-937 5400
BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS
0121-236 1234
BRISTOL BS1 1HQ
0117-929 9000
GLASGOW G2 3EH
0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER M3 2FF
0161-839 6965
0161-839 3434

Australia

£829

FROM RETURN

QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS

Take advantage of these unbelievable fares from Qantas and British Airways to fly to your dream holiday in Queensland, Australia's Great Barrier Reef state.

- Fare valid from Aug - Nov 1997 and from 21 Jan to 31 Mar 1998
- UK domestic flights on British Airways only £20 return
- Two FREE flights within Australia
- Two FREE stopovers in Bangkok or Singapore

Alternatively take advantage of a special British Airways/ Qantas discovery fare including UK domestic flights on British Airways for £20 and up to two free internal flights in Australia and the widest choice of stopovers.

Here's just one example of a routing on this fare:
London - Bali - Sydney - Cairns - Auckland - London.

To book or for further details, call either number below

0171 258 0280
TRAVELMOOD
214 Edgware Road, London W2 1DH
ABTA C965. ATOL 3355

0181 547 3322
QUEST WORLDWIDE
410 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT1 5HL
ABTA A9256. ATOL 3255

Three nights Cairns accommodation from just £51 per person.
3 Night Reef packages from just £115 pp
incl. 3 nights accommodation, Gt Barrier Reef cruise & Kuranda day tour.

Queensland Australia

Australia's Sunshine State

Fares exclude airport and other taxes. Conditions apply. TO TM 15.8

ZURICH
FROM
£129
RTN

Our fares are ridiculously small.

AMSTERDAM from	£69 rtn.
BELFAST from	£59 rtn.
BERGEN from	£189 rtn.
BRUSSELS from	£78 rtn.
COLOGNE from	£107 rtn.
COPENHAGEN from	£149 rtn.
DUBLIN from	£79 rtn.
EDINBURGH from	£59 rtn.
FRANKFURT from	£128 rtn.
GLASGOW from	£59 rtn.
GOTHENBURG from	£149 rtn.
NICE from	£149 rtn.
OSLO from	£149 rtn.
PALMA from	£209 rtn.
PARIS from	£69 rtn.
PRAGUE from	£184 rtn.
ROME from	£159 rtn.

Return fares from London Heathrow.

Other fares are also available from East Midlands, Leeds Bradford, Teesside, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

0345 554554

British Midland The Airline for Europe

Some routes available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability.

Fares must include a Saturday night stay. Passenger taxes will apply. *14 days advance booking.

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND & TONGA'S THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA £668

INCLUDES 7 DAYS CAR & CAMPER HIRE

CRUISES, ISLANDS, OUTBACK & REEF TRIPS

BRIDGE THE WORLD

0171 734 7447

Ring 01344 816600 (24hrs) for a free copy of our outstanding brochure.

4 Recent Days, Royal Street, London W1R 6DH

Fax 0171 734 7447. MIDS 101/1012. BKS 102/1022.

For Africa & Asia enquiries: 011 41 131 0020

Officially appointed agent

Direct Travel Insurance

BETTER COVER • BETTER PRICES

Worldwide Annual Multi-Trip

UNLIMITED SP • UNLIMITED TRIPS

Comprehensive family cover

£99 incl. IPT

UK's best single trip rates from

EUR. £6.38

USA £14.53

SFO £11.25

For instant cover or guaranteed same day cover call 01903 812345

TRAVEL Insurance

We will not be beaten on price!

USA - 17 days - 12 months Australia

£23.00

World-wide family Multi-trip

17 days - 12 months

£75.00

0990 133218 7 days

LONDON TOURIST CENTRE

0171 262 2009

AUSTRALIA

TRAVEL NOW

FROM

£579

RETURN

LONDON WEST END

0171 734 7755

LONDON

0171 838 1011

SOUTHWEST

0171 838 1516

BIRMINGHAM

01202 311458

BIRMINGHAM

0117 927 7425

LEEDS

0113 244 8880

MANCHESTER

0161 622 2445

Officially appointed agent

LOWEST FARES FOR TRAVEL NOW!

* Depart between 20 Aug & 31 Oct.

Return in November or December.

* Regular flights from London

Gatwick and Manchester to:

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.

* Stopover options available.

AUSTRALIA

50 Conduit Street, London W1

Others subject to availability. Taxes excluded.

ABTA C1864. ATOL 4022/ATOL 1643.

★ USA and CANADA ★

★ Toronto from £219

★ Halifax from £219

★ Baltimore from £210

★ Calgary from £219

★ Boston from £210

★ Vancouver from £219

★ Chicago from £215

★ Philadelphia from £225

★ Washington from £225

★ Miami from £270

★ Dallas from £275

★ Seattle from £275

★ San Francisco from £275

★ Los Angeles from £275

AUSTRALIA

TRAVEL NOW

FROM

£579

RETURN

LONDON WEST END

0171 734 7755

LONDON

0171 838 1011

SOUTHWEST

0171 838 1516

BIRMINGHAM

01202 311458

BIRMINGHAM

0117 927 7425

LEEDS

0113 244 8880

MANCHESTER

0161 622 2445

Officially appointed agent

LOWEST FARES FOR TRAVEL NOW!

* Depart between 20 Aug & 31 Oct.

Return in November or December.

* Regular flights from London

Gatwick and Manchester to:

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.

* Stopover options available.

AUSTRALIA

50 Conduit Street, London W1

Others subject to availability. Taxes excluded.

ABTA C1864. ATOL 4022/ATOL 1643.

★ USA and CANADA ★

★ Toronto from £219

★ Halifax from £219

★ Baltimore from £210

★ Calgary from £219

★ Boston from £210

★ Vancouver from £219

★ Chicago from £215

★ Philadelphia from £225

★ Washington from £225

★ Miami from £270

★ Dallas from £275

★ Seattle from £275

★ San Francisco from £275

★ Los Angeles from £275

AUSTRALIA

TRAVEL NOW

FROM

£579

RETURN

LONDON WEST END

0171 734 7755

LONDON

0171 838 1011

SOUTHWEST

0171 838 1516

BIRMINGHAM

01202 311458

BIRMINGHAM

0117 927 7425

LEEDS

0113 244 8880

MANCHESTER

0161 622 2445

Officially appointed agent

LOWEST FARES FOR TRAVEL NOW!

* Depart between 20 Aug & 31 Oct.

Return in November or December.

* Regular flights from London

Gatwick and Manchester to:

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.

* Stopover options available.

AUSTRALIA

50 Conduit Street, London W1

Others subject to availability. Taxes excluded.

ABTA C1864. ATOL 4022/ATOL 1643.

★ USA and CANADA ★

★ Toronto from £219

★ Halifax from £219

★ Baltimore from £210

★ Calgary from £219

★ Boston from £210

★ Vancouver from £219

★ Chicago from £215

★ Philadelphia from £225

★ Washington from £225

★ Miami from £270

★ Dallas from £275

★ Seattle from £275

★ San Francisco from £275

★ Los Angeles from £275

AUSTRALIA

TRAVEL NOW

FROM

£579

RETURN

LONDON WEST END

0171 734 7755

LONDON

0171 838 1011

SOUTHWEST

0171 838 1516

BIRMINGHAM

01202 311458

BIRMINGHAM

0117 927 7425

LEEDS

0113 244 8880

MANCHESTER

0161 622 2445

Officially appointed agent

LOWEST FARES FOR TRAVEL NOW!

* Depart between 20 Aug & 31 Oct.

Return in November or December.

* Regular flights from London

Gatwick and Manchester to:

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.

* Stopover options available.

AUSTRALIA

50 Conduit Street, London W1

Others subject to availability. Taxes excluded.

ABTA C1864. ATOL 4022/ATOL 1643.

★ USA and CANADA ★

★ Toronto from £219

★ Halifax from £219

★ Baltimore from £210

★ Calgary from £219

★ Boston from £210

★ Vancouver from £219

★ Chicago from £215

★ Philadelphia from £225

★ Washington from £225

★ Miami from £270

★ Dallas from £275

★ Seattle from £275

★ San Francisco from £275

★ Los Angeles from £275

Norfolk: While Walsingham welcomes thousands of worshippers, other towns snooze in idyllic anonymity

Pilgrims celebrate rebirth of the shrines



One of the pilgrims, with a prayer/hymn card and rosary, who this week walked barefoot along the holy mile from the Slipper Chapel to Walsingham Abbey to celebrate the refounding of the shrine

On Wednesday, in a small Norfolk village, Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, will launch a year of celebrations to commemorate an event that took place 100 years ago this week: the first modern pilgrimage to Walsingham, when 50 Catholic pilgrims arrived on the 12.08 train, from King's Lynn. They may not have known it at the time, but those pilgrims were the start of something big. A century on, Walsingham is again a centre of pilgrimage, with Anglican and Catholic shrines attracting half a million visitors a year.

It all began in 1061, when the lady of the manor, Richeldis de Faverches, had a vision of Our Lady in which she was led to Nazareth to see the "Holy House", where the Angel Gabriel had appeared. Mary commanded Richeldis to build a replica in Walsingham, and the simple wooden house, soon became a place of pilgrimage.

Augustinian and Franciscan monasteries grew up around the site; their remains can still be seen.

By the Middle Ages Walsingham had become the most important Marian shrine in Christendom.

Henry III made the pilgrimage at least 11 times and gave an annual offering of 40 shillings to the monks. Monastic life and including Henry VIII would arrive on horseback, leave their shoes at the 14th-century Slipper Chapel, and walk the final "holy mile" into Walsingham Abbey.

It was Henry VIII, however, who was responsible for Walsingham's decline, when he dissolved the monasteries and had the sub-prior of the abbey hanged. The Holy House was destroyed in 1538 and the Slipper Chapel became a barn. Henry's son, Edward VI, bequeathed his soul to Our Lady of Walsingham, but the damage had been done.

More than 300 years after the Reformation, the idea of pilgrimage was reborn and the first organised group arrived on August 20, 1897. Each of the original pilgrims was granted an Indulgence of 40 days by the Bishop of Northampton. Others quickly followed. By the 1930s the restored Slipper Chapel

had become the national Catholic shrine, and Anglicans — inspired by the Catholic revival of the Oxford Movement — had joined in with a shrine of their own. The Holy House was recreated, this time in brick and stone, and a church built to house it, close to the ruined priory.

When I visited recently I began, as all pilgrims should, with a visit to the Slipper Chapel, then, keeping my shoes firmly on, I continued into Walsingham by car. The houses along the high street are built in a mixture of timber, brick and flint in an architectural medley from medieval to Georgian, and typical of this part of north Norfolk. The shops sell rosaries and candles. In



Pilgrims carry a statue of the Virgin and Child

the old railway station above the village is a Russian Orthodox chapel, with icons painted by the resident priests.

Slowly I made my way to the Anglican shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Inside the door of the

church, banks of wooden prayer boards gave thanks to Mary — "for healing from smoking", "for success in exams", "for obtaining a job".

This was the sort of Protestantism that would give Ian Paisley a fit. There were miracles attributed to holy water from the church; there were prayers for newborn children (I noticed one for a girl named Richeldis) and a sad RIP for a mother and daughter, who had both died young a few years apart. At the

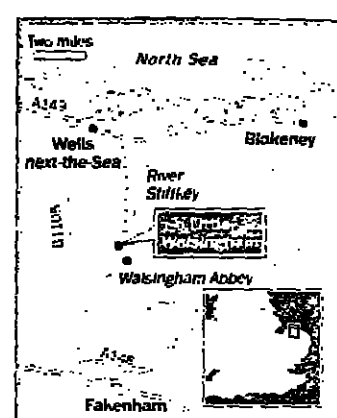
heart of the church, the dark brick of the Holy House was illuminated by dozens of candles: each one signifying a prayer. Prayers are said here at six o'clock each evening for all who have visited or sent requests. Standing alone in the

candlelight before the image of the Virgin it is difficult to be unmoved, whatever your faith.

A few minutes away, in another church, is a miracle of a different kind. The parish church of St Mary and All the Saints was almost totally destroyed by a fire in 1961. But the interior of the 14th-century shell has been rebuilt with brilliantly whitewashed walls and new "Gothic" arches. The effect is magnificent, but was spoilt for me by the stern notices warning visitors of hidden security cameras and the propaganda against women priests displayed around the church. I walked off my anger in the Abbey Gardens straddling the River Stifford beside the site of Richeldis's original shrine.

The pilgrim season at Walsingham runs from Easter to November; there is scarcely a day in summer when the village is not crowded with coach parties.

The centenary year will see more visitors than ever, as the Catholic Pilgrim Bureau lays on a year-long festival of music and drama, begin-



FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Walsingham is on the B1105 between Fakenham and Wells-next-the-Sea. From Easter to September a narrow-gauge railway runs several times a day between Walsingham and Wells. Information on 01328 846500.

■ Accommodation: The Old Bakehouse, High Street (01328 820454); double B&B, £37-£43. The Black Lion, Friday Market (01328 820235); double B&B, £40-£50. Pilgrim accommodation is available through the Catholic Pilgrim Bureau (01328 820317) and the Anglican Shrine Office (01328 820255).

■ Where to eat: The Old Bakehouse (see above); dinner only, about £25. Swallows Restaurant, 15 High Street (01328 820555), offers home-made lunches from £3.95.

■ Guided walks: These take place every Wednesday and Thursday until the end of September, leaving from the Shirehall Museum on Common Place at 11am and lasting about two hours. £3.75, children aged eight-16 £2. Information on 01328 820250.

■ Centenary events: The centenary begins on August 20 with Mass at the Slipper Chapel at 12 noon, a procession to the Abbey Gardens and an evening party at the Catholic shrine. The festival of music and drama begins on September 12. Centenary programme available from the Catholic Pilgrim Bureau (01328 820217).

■ Tourist Information Centre: Shirehall Museum, Common Place (01328 820510).

ning on September 12 with a concert of Marian music and ending a year later with a performance by the Westminster Cathedral Choir.

The Anglican national pilgrimage takes place over the 1998 Spring Bank Holiday on May 25. But, though the different churches organise their own events, Walsingham is an ecumenical place, where every pilgrimage features people of all faiths, and none.

My favourite time to visit Walsingham is in winter, when the pilgrims have departed, the souvenir shops are closed and the chapels become places of solitude. As winter turns to spring, the Abbey Gardens are carpeted with snowdrops and this celebration of new life, appearing like magic on the site of Richeldis's shrine, adds an extra dimension to the visit.

Go this week to share in the centenary celebrations; but if you really want to appreciate Walsingham, go back alone in the winter months and let it speak to you in the silence.

TONY KELLY

Places you shouldn't know about

Very flat? Norfolk? Well, that was how Noël Coward famously rubbished the county, and all who honeymoon in her, in *Private Lives* — and the Master's glib gibe has become enshrined in British folklore and regarded

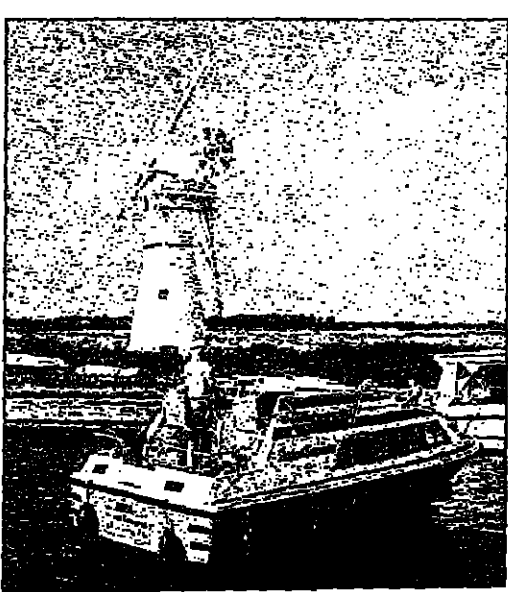
as a fair summary of an entire region. But you know what? Nobody who knows and loves England's serene easterly bow will mind the taunt one little bit. If metropolitan sophisticates want to plunk their chintzy second homes in

the Cotswolds, and leave Norfolk's meandering lanes, the horizon-filling plains of wheat and lavender, the pebble-walled villages and the lazy rivers in the sort of tranquillity that was last disturbed by marauding Dames in the early 11th century, that's fine with us. And if holidaymakers seeking a slice of Britain's coast persist in heading for crowded Devon or drizzly North Wales, that's OK, too. Norfolk's jolly little ports, its clean and sandy beaches, its lovingly restored

Victorian piers and saltily authentic jellied-egg stalls, its haunting sea marshes and fabulous array of majestic medieval churches — all this can remain the secret of initiates who are perfectly content to let the world go on believing that Norfolk is flat, dull and devoid of all distinguishing features.

Of course, parts of Norfolk are distressingly well known to the world at large. The Broads, on a summer Sunday afternoon when the abrasive whine of the ubiquitous cabin cruiser and the churning wash of the pleasure steamer seem to disturb even the most remote backwater, have all the soothing calm of the M25 in the rush hour. Similarly, all roads leading to Sandringham are customarily clogged with royal groupies. And Norwich, for all its architectural splendours, bustling marketplace and teeming pub life, is a beautiful city terminally in thrall to the motorcar. But these are mere pockets of

irritation in a county that is otherwise blissfully free of urban stress and strain. Thanks, no doubt, to its comparative remoteness from large conurbations (central London is a good three-hour drive from most of the county), Norfolk has largely been left cocooned in an overwhelmingly agricultural way of life. Its landscape has thus been spared both the commuter-town sprawl and the second-home blight, the creeping sicknesses of the late 20th



Norfolk lovers want to keep it to themselves

century that have all but devoured vast swaths of formerly rural Sussex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and neighbouring Suffolk. Most important of all, it can boast 40 or 50 towns or villages that each has a distinctive character, unlike anywhere else and unlike each other. It is this jaunty and surprising variety that is such a perennial tonic to the jaded spirit.

If I want Georgian elegance and a damn good dinner, I go to Holt, with its high street of splendidly old-fashioned little shops. For bracing walks across the most richly endowed birdwatchers' paradise in Britain, head for Blakeney, or for the great shingle bank at Cley — seven miles long, with seals watching your progress from 20 yards off shore.

For picture-postcard charm, the secret hamlet of Heydon is the place. For stately halls and vast, rolling estates, explore Mannington, Holkham or Blickling. For beautifully carved furniture, any one of a dozen superb craftsmen in the Saxthorpe and Aylsham area. For eccentricity, look in at the Fakenham Museum of Gas History, or the extraordinary Thursford Steam Engine Collection.

I could fill this entire newspaper with examples of Norfolk's quieter charms, but self-interest dictates that I fall silent. The last thing that Norfolk-lovers want is to encourage thousands of day trippers to pour in each weekend. Norfolk is a place whose glories only reveal themselves gradually, mysteriously, elusively. But once you are hooked, it never lets you go. The rural spirit of England is alive and well here.

And, by the way, Mr Coward, it is not flat. Some of my favourite hills and dales nestle deep in the heart of Norfolk. But I'm damned if I'm telling anybody where they are.

RICHARD MORRISON

SPECIAL OFFER

from **£399**

CHINA

7 nights: 1st class hotel

Visit China's fascinating capital city of Beijing.

Optional excursion programme: £89

Great Wall/Ming Tombs: full day including lunch.

Forbidden City: half day.

Grand View Gardens first class hotel. 3 restaurants, bar. Indoor swimming pool. Approx 15 minutes from city centre. Rooms with heating/airconditioning, TV, telephone, minibar, bath/shower.

Shangri-La Hotel's stylish deluxe hotel. Indoor pool, fitness centre. Restaurants, bars. Well-appointed rooms with airconditioning/heating and minibar, TV, bath/shower, from £499 (Nov-Mar only).

BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHTS

Dept date:	Price:	Dept date:	Price:
01 Sep/13 Oct '97	£509	01 Oct/08 Dec '97	£399
08/15/22 Sep	£539	22/29 Dec	£499
29 Sep/07 Oct	£499	05 Jan '98	£399
06/20 Oct	£559	19 Jan/02 Feb	£439
03/17 Nov	£449	09/16 Mar	£449

Local departures from selected airports: £39 extra.

The price includes: Scheduled flights/Heathrow. UK Dept tax of £10 (£30 from 01 Nov). 7 nights Grand View Gdn (no meals). Transfers.

Prices per person sharing twin rooms. Not included: China visa. Local dept tax (approx £7). Optional insurance: £30, 97; £35, 98.

Booking conditions apply.

To book, telephone (open daily inc Sat/Sun)

01306 744300

Fax: 01306 744334

ALTA VOX

ATOL 112

The Travel Collection

Deepest House, Dorking, Surrey RH4 4AZ

It's Happy Hour

NO COMMISSION

on US dollars and Spanish pesetas at

Thomas Cook

THIS SATURDAY

16th AUGUST

Thomas Cook Foreign Exchange

Offer is only valid on US dollar notes, US dollar travellers' cheques, Spanish peseta notes and Spanish peseta travellers' cheques purchased from Thomas Cook shops on Saturday 16th August 1997 while stocks last. Offer not valid at bureaux located at ports, airports and inside Milled Ham. Minimum transaction limit on note sales £2000. Additional identification (eg passport, driving licence) may be requested for payment by cheque and credit/debit cards. One free drink per customer leaving up the offer while stocks last.

Spain: The lovelorn Christopher Columbus left his heart in the tiny island of Gomera, so they say ...

Need a snifter? Just give a little whistle

The first sight of Gomera was of a tiny black island the shape of an upturned saucer but as we got nearer it emerged as a surprisingly green and hilly place.

Gomera, one of the smallest and least known of the Canary islands, an hour west by ferry from the port of Los Cristianos on its big sister island of Tenerife, is about the size of the Isle of Wight but the comparison ends there. Wight's highest hill pokes up a couple of hundred feet, Gomera's main peak soars nearly 4,000ft. It has vast valleys, rich with vegetation like a Caribbean island, great outcrops of bare rock that remind you of Arizona, and one of Europe's last areas of laurel woodland. A place of breathtaking beauty.

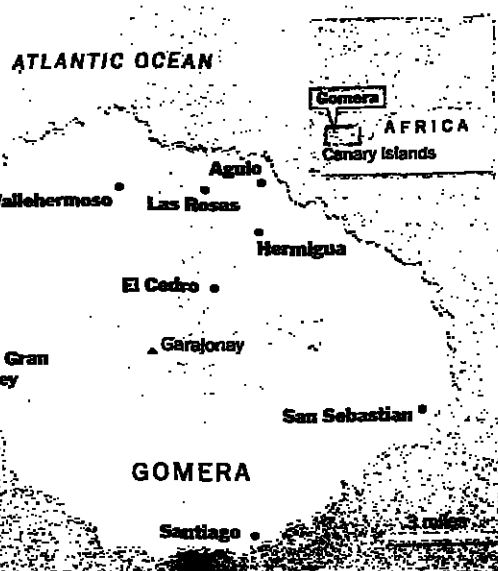
Various circumstances have, so far, stopped Gomera from being developed for mass tourism. Its handful of beaches are small and covered with black sand. A shortage of fresh water and local planning rules have curtailed new building. There are few big hotels and even fewer with their own swimming pool. For about 30 years German tourists have been coming to Valle Gran Rey on the west coast but over-development now makes it a place to avoid.

Before heading into the valleys, the charming little capital of San Sebastian is worth exploring. It is a town with a bustling main square and plenty of bars and restaurants. But its main claim to fame is as a favourite stopping-off place of Christopher Columbus, who had a house here, Casa de Colon, which is now a small museum, and worshipped at the beautifully preserved church of Nuestra de la Asuncion.

Columbus also enjoyed many dalliances with local women, including a heart-breaking one with the widow Beatriz de Bobadilla, who eventually married the local governor. A miffed Columbus, it is said, exacted his revenge on Europe by discovering America.

Gomera is small enough to walk around in a week, and a good starting point is the visitor's centre in the hills above the village of Agulo on the northeast coast. The centre gives a good feel for the island. Its gardens contain more indigenous species than in Britain and Germany put together.

From the centre it takes about an hour or so to walk past giant aloe and prickly pear cacti to the head of the valley, which overlooks the town of Vallehermoso. This is a spectacular view which improves



the further you head into the valley. My first impression was the sheer lushness of the valley but soon each direction provided different views.

Behind was green woodland of the Garajonay National Park, the only one on the island. Around the isolated hamlet of El Tio were the typical, well-kept farmland terraces usually planted with bananas or orange trees.

The way down to Vallehermoso was by a steep, twisting track followed by a long, gentle walk past palm trees and more terraces into the town.

It is in the town that the Gomeran art of whistling — *sibol* — is being revived. Legend has it that the original inhabitants, Les Guanches, had their tongues cut out by the Conquistadores and so developed a whistling language, using their fingers to produce different sounds, to communicate. The language was taken up by farmers and shepherds to send messages across valleys for up to two miles. Now the *Silbadores* demonstrate



San Sebastian, the island's capital

their skills by sending complicated messages, such as "fetch a gin and tonic for the lady in the blue dress", to impressed tourists.

From Vallehermoso there is a long but rewarding walk to the village of Las Rosas, which takes in much of the best of the island. The walk takes you past the large Encantadora reservoir and the delightful villages of Banda de Las Rosas and Los Loros, blooming with summer flowers, and up into some high meadows.

From here, a long, hard ascent to the national park is crowned by one of the most stunning views on the island. From about 4,000ft you can look down the V-shaped valley beyond Vallehermoso to the sea. Each side of the valley is green with vegetation. You have to remember you are on a small European island and not in the verdant Caribbean.

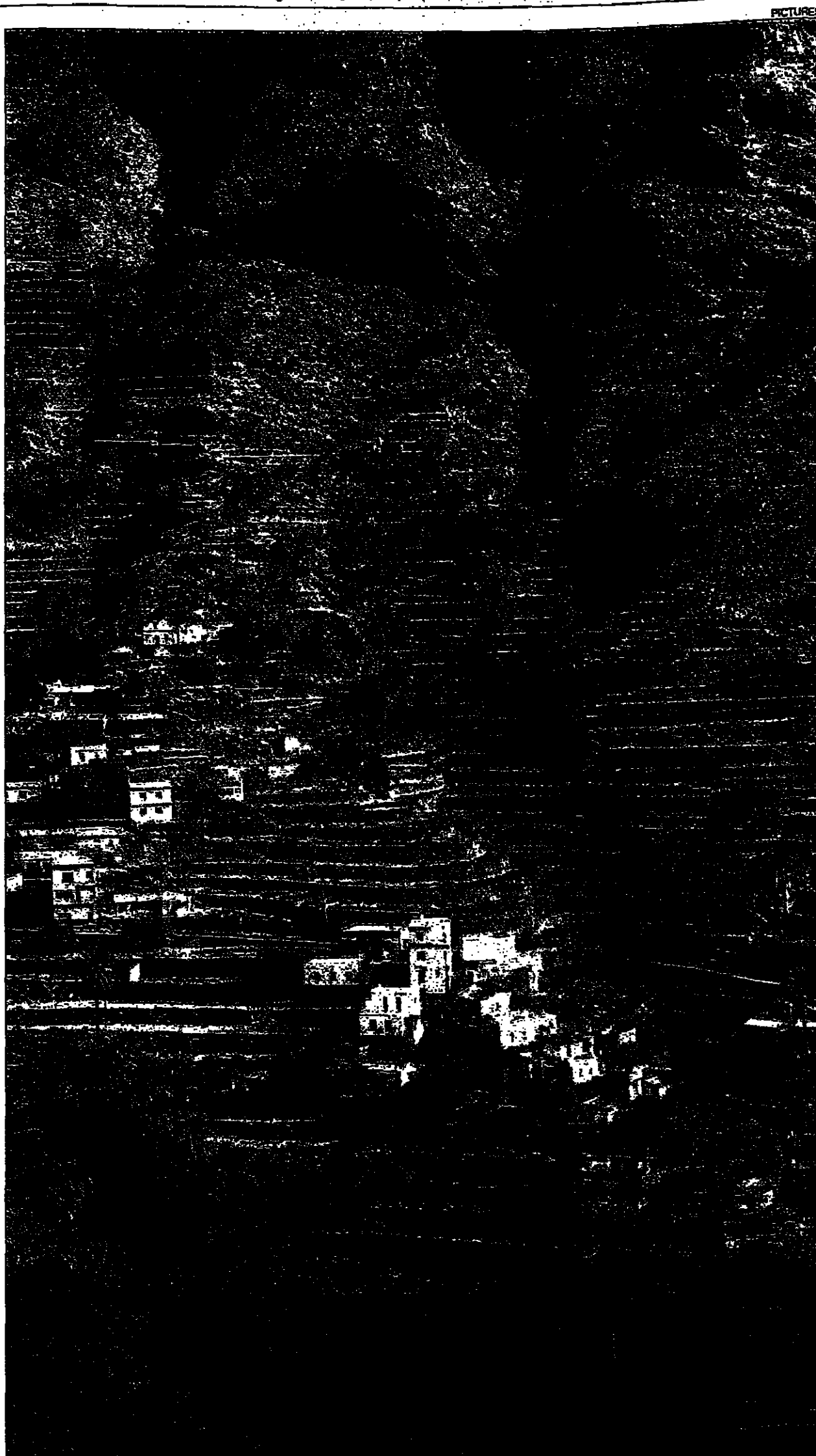
The eight-day holiday itinerary I took provides for a rest day but this is a chance to take a walk through the laurel woods of the national park. This type of woodland once covered much of Europe but was destroyed in the Ice Age. The few acres left on Gomera are among the largest areas remaining in Europe.

However, it is the last day that provides the most enjoyable walk. From the lively fishing resort of Santiago, you can take a taxi to the peaceful village of Pastrana, where the road ends. You can then enjoy a walk up the Santiago Valley without seeing another person all day. The track runs along the valley with the island's biggest bare rock, the 3,500ft Roque Agando, looming before you.

Too soon the walk is over and you are back on the Tarmac, faced with a choice: you can carry on trekking to San Sebastian or "cheat" by walking two miles along the road to the nearest bar and ordering a taxi.

The Bar Peraza is perched on the edge of a ravine with intoxicating views down the valley. As you sip your cold beer, it is worth remembering the story of the man after whom the bar is named. Señor Peraza was sent by the Spanish to govern the island but infuriated locals by continually seducing their maidens. After an affair with one particularly young victim, the Gomerans decided enough was enough and threw Peraza over the ravine to his death. But, as the locals say, he would have enjoyed some stunning views on the way down.

STANLEY SLAUGHTER



Pretty houses climb the terraced hillside of Valle Gran Rey, but elsewhere in the village there is tourist over-development

GOMERA FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717), which offers an eight-day tour from £741 (£801 with escort), including flights, B&B (with the last night in the five-star national park in San Sebastian) and most evening meals and lunches. The price does not include taxi fares or the ferry or hydrofoil service, about £6, from Los Cristianos on Tenerife to San Sebastian. For unaccompanied tours, visitors are provided with a map of Gomera and detailed directions.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Alternative Gomera*, by Nicholas Albery (Institute for Social Inventions, £6.50), *Landscapes of South Tenerife and La Gomera* by Noel Rochford (Sunflower Books £9.99).

■ Spanish Tourist Office in London, 0171-499 0901.

SOMAK

The UK's favourite operator to East Africa.

14 days MONROVIA	from £1429
7 days NILE CRUISE 5th Sept 97	from £1119
14 days GOA 18-31 Oct 97 inc.	from £379
7 days SRI LANKA BEACH 23-29 Jan 98 inc.	from £399

For competitively priced holidays ask your Travel Agent to contact Somak Holidays.

Somak
HOLIDAYS

0181 423 3008
ABTA AITO ATOL2551

Answers from page 23

SLUB
(b) A yarn containing thickened parts, or slubs, at intervals. A fabric woven from such a yarn. Also, attributively, having an irregular effect given by a warp of uneven thickness.

TORRY
(a) To provoke and fight (a bull). From the Spanish *torrear*, to fight (a bull), to be a bullfighter. Roy Campbell, *Mithras Embians*, 1936: "The white Torero — him who took the toss/Sky-high upon the black horns of the Cross,/For torrying the horned prince of Death."

URSCHLEIM
(b) In early biology, the original form of life, protoplasm. From the German from Ur (in the Chaldees, a symbol of great antiquity) and slime.

SNOEK
(c) The snake mackerel, *Thyrates arun*, of the family Gempylidae, a large marine food fish found in large shoals in colder parts of Southern Hemisphere oceans.

POLAND

10 Day Holiday with Flight & Breakfast

£129

To Zakopane in the Beautiful Tatra Mountains

New Millennium Holidays

Brochure: 0121 705 4431

Escape for a late Holiday

Fly off on a late summer holiday from only £381. Our all-inclusive price covers flights, meals, sports and entertainment at selected Club Med resorts in Corfu, Portugal, Sicily, Sardinia, Ibiza, Turkey, mainland Italy and Spain.

Club Med Start Living.

RESERVATIONS: 0171-581 1161 BROCHURE REQUEST: 01455 852 202
OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT ADJUST WEEKLY PRICE QUOTED FOR CORFU IPSOS, CORFU DEPARTURE IS 15 SEPT 97. HOLIDAYS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

Lunn Poly
The UK's No.1 for Cruises

UP TO 32% OFF P&O CRUISES

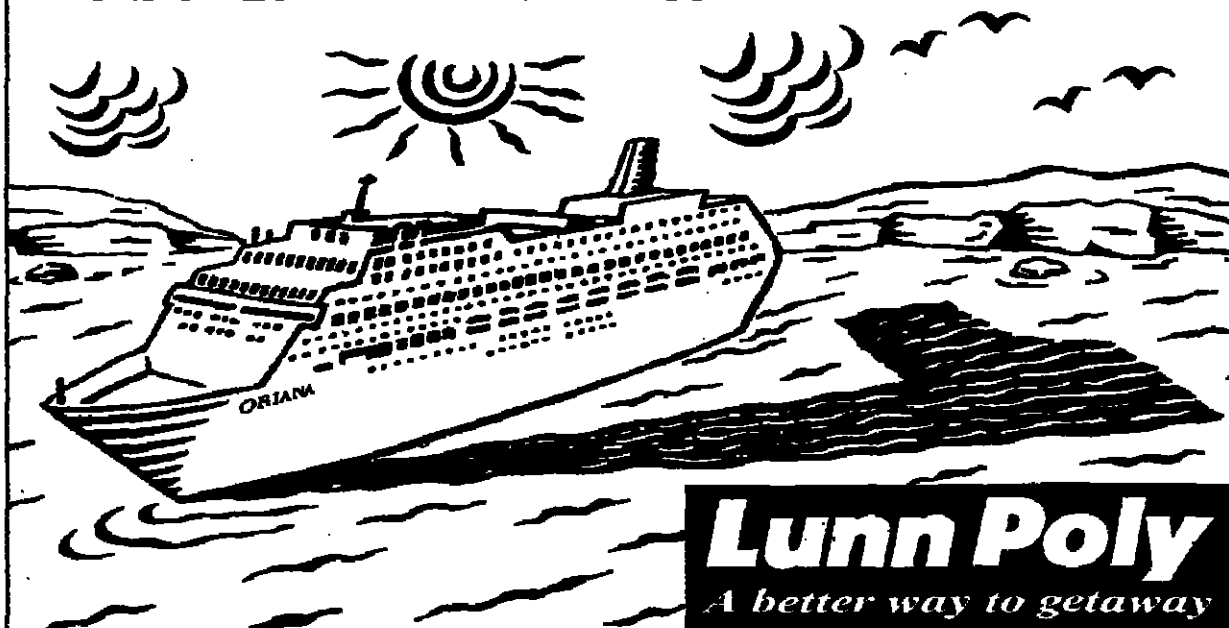
Book before 30th August 1997 at Lunn Poly and you can save up to 32% off 1998 P&O Cruises.

With prices from only £601* per person for a 7 night cruise you can choose from the biggest-ever selection of cruises aboard the Oriana, Victoria or the latest Superliner for Britain, Arcadia. Just take out our Holidaycare insurance when you book.**

With great offers like these, no wonder Lunn Poly is No.1 for cruises.

Hurry down to your local Lunn Poly Holiday Shop or call the Cruise Hotline on 01203 223300.†

CHECK LUNN POLY'S PRICES BEFORE YOU BOOK



Lunn Poly
A better way to getaway

Up to 32% contains P&O's early booking and early payment savings and Lunn Poly's current summer or winter discount. *2001 price after discount is based on 4 people sharing aboard the Arcadia departing 30.8.98. Offer subject to availability and cannot be combined with any other promotional offer or discount. Offer applies to new bookings only. Lunn Poly reserves the right to withdraw this offer without notice. **Typical insurance £33.05 per person for 8 days cover. †Lines are open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm. Credit Card surcharge of 1% applies. Credit card surcharge does not apply to bookings over £2000.

01203 223300

The magic of horses, bulls and sherry



A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a man and a woman on horseback. The man, wearing a dark hat and a light-colored shirt, is seated on a horse, looking towards the right. The woman, wearing a light-colored, patterned dress and a dark headscarf, is seated behind him, also looking towards the right. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a wooded area. The image has a grainy, high-contrast quality.

I stopped the car and asked them the way to Ronda. There is only one road but I thought I might engage them in conversation. The younger one pointed over the mountain and then they continued on their separate ways, doubtless wondering about a driver who did not have the wit to see the road in front of his nose.

THE CALEDONIA LIMITED
 115 GERRARD STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON W1K 6LE
 TEL 0171-409 0376 FAX 0171-409 0834
 BROCHURE ANSWERPHONE 0171-355 1424
 A87A V3371X

Thomas Cook
Foreign Exchange

Offer is only valid on US dollar notes, US dollar travellers cheques, Spanish peseta notes and Spanish peseta travellers cheques purchased from Thomas Cook shops on Saturday 10th August 1997 while stocks last. Offer not valid at bureaux located at ports, airports and inside Midland Banks. Maximum transaction limit on note sales £2000. Address identification (eg: passport, driving licence) may be requested by payment by cheque and credit/debit cards. One free drink per customer taking up the offer while stocks last.

WEEKEND • SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997

AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Return to the Somme

THE first tank ever to go into action moved out of Glanchy in France at 5.15am on September 15, 1916, to attack a German stronghold. The defenders fled and the stalemate of trench warfare in the First World War was eventually broken.

Holts Tours (01304 612248), the battlefield specialist, is organising a four-day itinerary in September. It starts at the Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset, before crossing the Channel to visit the battlefields of the Somme and Cambrai, and Villers Bretonneux, the scene of the first tank battle. The tour costs £399, including fares, coach travel, half-board accommodation and entrance fees.

Family farm

AUTUMN budget breaks across the Channel may help to delay those post-summer blues. InnTravel (01633 62881), which offers a tempting variety of trips, has recently discovered a family-run *ferme-auberge* dating from the 13th century at Mareville, in the Valley of the Course. This is one of the more picturesque and peaceful, yet lesser-known, areas of Picardy. Country cooking from farm-fresh produce is the speciality. The two-night break costs from £85 for half-board and ferry crossing.

Further west, Brittany Ferries (0171-771 7008 or 0990 360360) which took over the Gites de France organisation last November, offers Cite d'Interlude self-catering short breaks in country cottages in Brittany, Normandy and the Loire Valley between October and May. The prices, based on a minimum stay of two nights, start at £43 per night per gite. The company took over the Gites de France organisation last November.

SPA specialist Enna Low (0171-584 2841) can offer health breaks in a warm climate to help you prepare yourself for the winter. Five days staying at Biomim, on the Côte d'Azur, the largest sea-water therapy and fitness centre in Europe, cost £693 for flights, half-board and three thalassotherapy treatments a day. A personalised treatment programme designed for slimming, toning and fighting stress is available at the Clos des Oliviers, a converted Andalusian farmhouse in Marbella, £795 (including flights and half-board). A holistic approach to relaxation is the key to the Cornelia Palace's five-day break in Malta, which costs £633 for flights, half-board and lots of treatments.

Culture tours

CULTURAL pursuits from the British Museum Traveller (0171-323 8895) include autumn breaks to Vienna and the newly opened Louvre Galleries in Paris. On the five-day Austrian tour, which costs £975 for flights, half-board accommodation and entrance fees, there are visits to art collections in Vienna, an evening at the opera and lectures on the Habsburg Empire. The last night



Return to the fighting fields: Battle of Cambrai in November 1917, where massed tanks broke through the German lines, hastening the end of the First World War

JILL CRAWSHAW'S AUTUMN BREAKS

is spent in Salzburg, following the steps of Mozart.

A three-day tour to Paris in early November, for travellers with an interest in ancient Persia, offers the chance to see the newly opened ancient Iran galleries at the Louvre. The tour, priced at £593, is under the tutelage of John Curtis, keeper of Western Antiquities at the British Museum.

Nouveau taste

STAMINA is needed for the trip by VFB (01242 240358) to the Fête des Sarmantelles in the heart of Beaujolais Nouveau country at vintage time. The three-day trip includes an evening of wine tasting, a gala dinner, a torchlit procession to where the new wine is officially launched by a firework display — and dancing till dawn.

Based at Lyons, the festival break costs £324 for return travel by train, two nights' B&B, tastings, dinner at the festival and a dinner cruise on the Rhône.

If you want to help with the harvesting (though it is not obligatory), Arblaster and Clarke (01730 893344) can arrange a five-night trip to a wine château at Minervois,

near Carcassonne. There will be copious meals and tastings and Derek Smedley, wine consultant, will be on hand for information and advice. The price is £1,099 for flights, most meals with wine and, of course, the tastings.

For riesling fans, Moswin (0116-271 9922) offers three-night weekends half-board at Derdesheim, on Germany's Wine Road, for £399, including flights.

Hunt the truffle

AUTUMN tours for fungi fanciers include woodland forays with experts in search of edible species, cookery lessons and lots of sampling from gourmet menus. "Mushroom Special" weekends are organised by Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400) from September 26 and all through October. The weekends are based at Le Manoir du Lys in Normandy and cost £377 for a two-night stay. Full board and cross-Channel ferries for car and passengers are included. The annual truffle hunts organised by Arblaster and Clarke

(01730 893344) take place at the end of October in the Langhe hills of Piedmont in Italy, heartland of the much-prized white fungus. Eating, truffle hunting and tasting local barolo wines are all on the menu. The price is £829 for flights and four nights' full-board.

Bird watch

ABOUT 60,000 trumpeting cranes with 8ft wingspans, droves of bustards and crowds of lesser white-fronted geese all assemble on the Hungarian plains during October. It is part of their great migration from Siberia to the warmer winter climate of Africa.

In all there are about 100 bird species to spot during the four-night break from birdwatching specialist Limosa Holidays (01263 578143). The price is £695, which includes return scheduled flights and full-board hotel accommodation in Hajdusoboszló, with picnics or lunches in rural inns.

LOTS of action in the Arctic is promised by Arctic Experience (01737 218800) on its five-night Iceland activity breaks between October and May. The cost of £417 includes flights, three nights' B&B in a fishing village just south of the Arctic Circle and two nights in Reykjavik. Ice fishing, snowshoeing and Jeep safaris are among the activities, but these do cost extra.

Beautiful Bled

PICTURE-BOOK Lake Bled, in Slovenia, used to be the summer holiday venue of the former royal family of Yugoslavia and was much loved by President Tito, who entertained foreign guests there. Bled has sunny autumn temperatures and activities such as walking, fishing, riding and cycling. The water is surprisingly warm, so you can usually swim in the lake well into October.

There is interesting sightseeing nearby, including Vintgar Gorge, the Sum waterfall, the less developed but attractive Lake Bohinj

and a clutch of little medieval churches full of superb frescoes. Slovenia Pursuits (01763 852646) offers three-night breaks, staying on working farms or in small hotels, from £310. This price includes B&B accommodation in a farmhouse and flights.

Opera treats

ALTHOUGH tickets for the Wexford Opera Festival (October 16-November 2) are sold out at the box office, opera specialist JMB Travel (01905 425628) still has packages available with tickets for each of three productions: *Elena Da Felice* featuring Savio Mercedante; *Rusalka* featuring Alexander Dargomizhsky and *La Fiamma* with Ottorino Respighi.

The festival was founded in 1951 from humble origins as the Wexford Gramophone Society, with performances at the Theatre Royal. Sir Compton Mackenzie, its presenter, suggested organising live performances instead.

A four-day escorted tour with three nights' full board, flights and three operas costs £719. Three-night breaks by car and ferry, with two opera tickets, cost £285.

Staying out of Hong Kong

THE HANDOVER of Hong Kong on June 30 failed to attract many tourists. Visitor numbers from the UK fell by more than 11 per cent to 24,501 during June and the total number of visitors from other countries fell further by 14 per cent to 789,000.

The Hong Kong Tourist Association said many people had assumed Hong Kong would be both full and expensive during June. However, UK tourist numbers were up by 6 per cent for the first half of this year.

HOLIDAYMAKERS facing flight delays may receive better compensation next summer. The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) is studying plans to introduce a sliding scale of payment to take effect below the 12-hour average used by most airlines. Keith Richards, ABTA's head of consumer affairs, said: "The issue has got to be taken seriously if we are to stave off government intervention."

THOUSANDS of holiday-makers renting a car in the US could be under-insured, according to Marcus Hearn, a travel insurance broker. The firm said car rental firms in the US charge additional rates to cover their vehicles — but levels of personal liability insurance can be as low as \$5,000.

Jeffrey Klipp, managing director, said: "In the event of an accident, the car will be covered but the driver could end up being sued for thousands of dollars."

The firm is one of several brokers which sells policies of about £3.50 a day to take third-party liability up to \$1m. There is also \$100,000 cover if the tourist is in collision with any uninsured motorists.

STEVE KEENAN



Tourists in the US should check their car insurance

Ferry rides offer the best views of a city. Jeremy Seal offers his favourite top ten

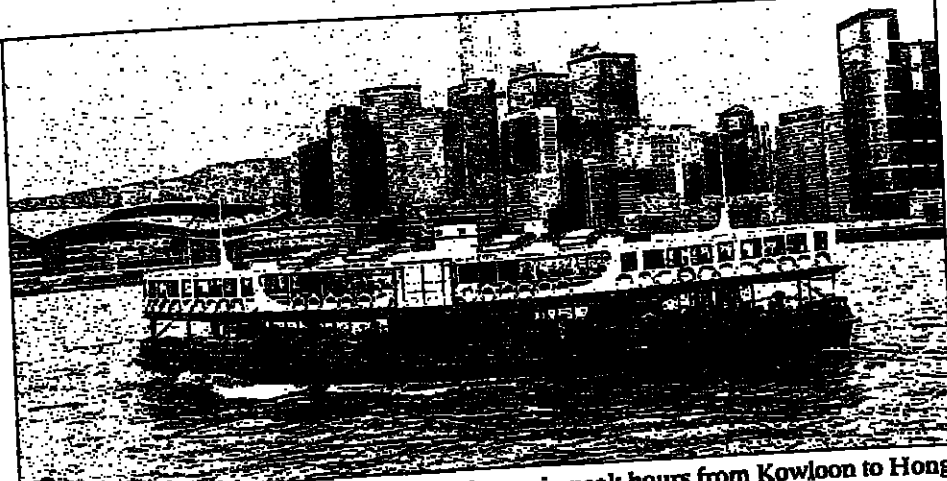
Wait until the boat comes in

THE ferry that had linked San Diego's downtown since 1886 with the resort area around the Hotel del Coronado, where *Some Like It Hot* was filmed, was put out of business, predictably enough, by the building of the Coronado Bridge in 1969. Less predictably, the service was resumed in 1987 after a public campaign. The modern world may have squeezed the city ferry but it has not killed it off. Here is *The Times* countdown to the world's top ten city ferry rides.

10. The Cadiz Ferry, Lisbon: Almost 50,000 people continue to take Lisbon's ferries across the Tagus to work every day; the 25th April Suspension Bridge is notorious for queues. Cadiz has a few reasonable fish restaurants but the crossing is really about appreciating the excellent views of Lisbon.

9. Devonport and Waiheke Island Ferries, Auckland: The two main services run from the ferry building on Quay Street. The service to Devonport, an Auckland suburb, runs every half-hour until 11pm. Another ferry serves Waiheke Island, a community of alternative lifestyles that is also a wine-making mecca.

8. Oakland Ferry, San Francisco: Discontinued in the



The Star ferry, which runs every three minutes in peak hours from Kowloon to Hong Kong Island, is one of the world's best-known ferry rides and one of the cheapest

1950s. This route was reopened in 1990 and leaves San Francisco's handsome Ferry Building every hour in the rush hour and every 90 minutes otherwise, calling at Alameda on the 30-minute crossing to Oakland's Jack London

Square. Highlights are views of Alcatraz Island and passing under the Bay Bridge.

7. The Bainbridge Island Ferry, Seattle: The 2,000-capacity ferries make 22 trips daily from the island enclave of Bainbridge to Pier 52 at Seattle's downtown waterfront. The nine-mile crossing, which carries wealthy island dwellers to work (see Michael Douglas in *Disclosure*), takes 35 minutes. In winter, the Puget Sound crossing can be cold and rough but on good days, the views of islands, snow-capped mountains and even occasional whale-sightings make for an inspirational commute.

6. The Mersey Ferry, Liverpool: The 1960s ferries run a triangular commuter service that links Pierhead, Liverpool, with Seacombe and Woodside on Wirral. Bonuses include

views of Liverpool's great Victorian landmarks, the Liver Building, the Port of Liverpool Building and the Cunard Building, as well as the Anglican Cathedral.

5. The Niteroi Ferry, Rio de Janeiro: The nine-mile bridge across Guanabara Bay was not designed for pedestrians, who continue to pack the ferry from the quay at Praça 15 de

Novembre. Residential Niteroi has little to offer, get straight back on the first return ferry to savour views of Rio's harbour, the Sugar Loaf Mountain and the statue of Christ. Also enjoy the hawkers' offerings of everything from jewellery to home-made ice cream on the 20-minute crossing.

4. The Manly Ferry, Sydney: Manly is a resort area at the mouth of Sydney Harbour. Ferries leave the Circular

Quay, in the shadow of the Harbour Bridge, and head past the Opera House through the Heads, Sydney Harbour's dramatic entrance.

3. The Star Ferry, Hong Kong: The Star Ferry between Tsim Tsa Tsui, Kowloon and Central, Hong Kong Island, which will celebrate its centenary next year, is one of the world's best-known ferry rides — and one of the cheapest. Don't try and save 2p by going second class; you'll be on the lower deck and miss the views of Hong Kong's high-rise skyline. The service runs between 6.30am and 11.30pm with a three-minute frequency during peak hours.

2. The Bosphorus Ferries, Istanbul: Despite soaring bridges across the Bosphorus, Istanbul remains a city crossed by ferry routes. The best is the ten-minute crossing between European Karakoy on the Beyoglu side of Galata Bridge and Asian Haydarpasha where the ferry moors below the great *fin-de-siècle* train station, all ornate columns and an exotic departs board featuring Tehran and Damascus. On the crossing, waiters in once-white jackets offer black tea, coke and yoghurt drink called *ayran*. Buy a lottery ticket or have your shoes cleaned while enjoying unrivalled views of the city's mosques and palaces.

1. The Staten Island Ferry, New York: Carrying up to 4,500 passengers on each journey, the ferry makes more than 50 crossings each way every weekday from St George Ferry Terminal on the island to the Whitehall Ferry Terminal in Lower Manhattan. The five-mile journey takes about 25 minutes, plenty of time to take in the glory of the skyline and to imagine yourself taking

Manhattan by storm like Melanie Griffiths in *Working Girl*.

It's Happy Hour
PESETA PUNCH
NO
COMMISSION
on Spanish peseta notes
& travellers cheques
+
HAVE A FREE
DRINK ON US

So come along to your local
Thomas Cook shop on Saturday 16th August!

Thomas
Cook
Foreign Exchange

Offer of a free drink on US dollar notes, US dollar travellers cheques, Spanish peseta notes and Spanish peseta travellers cheques purchased from Thomas Cook shops on Saturday 16th August 1997 while stocks last. Offer not valid in branches located at ports, airports and cruise ship terminals. Minimum transaction limit on note sales £2000. Maximum 1000 August 1997 while stocks last. Offer not valid in branches located at ports, airports and cruise ship terminals. One free drink per customer taking up the offer while stocks last. Identification (eg passport, driving licence) may be requested for payment by cheque and credit/debit cards. One free drink per customer taking up the offer while stocks last.

MAURITIUS
7nights SILVER BEACH (HB) from £960
8 June - 2 Aug 98
13nights THORN TREE SAFARI (FB)
6 MERVILLE BEACH (HB) from £1499
24 Aug - 2 Jul 98
Many other beach/holiday combinations and a fine selection of beach hotels are also available.
For completely tailored holidays ask your Travel Agent to contact Sunpak Holidays.
Sunpak
0181 423 3000
ABTA AITO 47012558

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

GRANDMASTER Jon Speelman, the former World Championship semi-finalist, crashed badly at the end of the first week of the Smith & Williamson British Chess Championship in Hove, which finished yesterday.

Speelman lost both to James Plaskett and Malcolm Pein. However, he did have the consolation of winning one of the most beautiful and elegant games.

White: Jon Speelman; **Black:** Charles Cobb
Smith & Williamson British Chess Championship, August 1997
Queen's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6
3 g3 b6

In a later round Plaskett beat Speelman with 3...c5.

4 Bg2 Bb7 5 c4 Bc7
6 O-O Qd7 7 Nc3 Ne4
8 Bd2 f5 9 d5 Bf8

10 Re1

A standard line of the Queen's Indian Defence has developed, in which White offers to trade in the bishop pair in exchange for superior central control.

11 ... Ne6 12 Be1

Finally securing his bishop from exchange.

13 ... Nac5 12 Nd4 Nac3
14 Bxc3 e5

An interesting pawn sacrifice.

15 Nd5 Bg5 15 f4

White could preserve his extra pawn with 15 Ne3 but after 15... Bxe3 16 Bxe3 Black has magnificent compensation. Speelman prefers to enter complications.

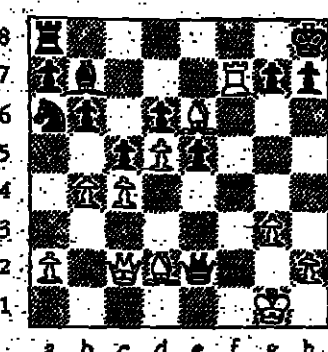
16 ... Bxd5 16 Qc2 Rf8
17 fxe5 Qxe5 18 b4 Na6
19 Bd2 Qh5 20 Bf3 Qe8
21 Be4 Qh5 22 Rf3 Qe8
23 Rf1

The upshot of Black's combination is that White has pressure in the centre and on the king's flank, while Black's knight on a6 is lamentably short of perspectives.

23 ... Rf3 24 Bxf3 Qh3
25 Be4 Qh5 26 Bf5 Qh8

If 26... Qxe2 White has the pleasant choice between 27 Bxf7+ and 27 Be6+ Kf8 28 Q5 with an enduring attack.

27 Be6 c5 28 Rf7 Qxe2



a b c d e f g h

If Black had now been hoping for 29 Rxb7 Nxb4 with counterplay he is in for a shock. Speelman comes up with a thunderbolt.

29 Bb6 Qc1+

If 29... Qxc2 White mates commencing 30 Bg7+.

30 Kg2 Rg8 31 Bg7+

Black resigns.

After 31... Rxf7 32 Rf8+ mates.

The Winning Move of August 4 led many of you into a trap. White to play. Black has allowed the possibility of 1 Bg5, apparently trapping his queen, as he anticipates the reply 1... Bxf3, counter-attacking against the white queen.

10 ... Ne6 11 Be1

Finally securing his bishop from exchange.

13 ... Nac5 12 Nd4 Nac3
14 Bxc3 e5

An interesting pawn sacrifice.

15 Nd5 Bg5 15 f4

White could preserve his extra pawn with 15 Ne3 but after 15... Bxe3 16 Bxe3 Black has magnificent compensation. Speelman prefers to enter complications.

16 ... Bxd5 16 Qc2 Rf8
17 fxe5 Qxe5 18 b4 Na6
19 Bd2 Qh5 20 Bf3 Qe8
21 Be4 Qh5 22 Rf3 Qe8
23 Rf1

The upshot of Black's combination is that White has pressure in the centre and on the king's flank, while Black's knight on a6 is lamentably short of perspectives.

23 ... Rf3 24 Bxf3 Qh3
25 Be4 Qh5 26 Bf5 Qh8

If 26... Qxe2 White has the pleasant choice between 27 Bxf7+ and 27 Be6+ Kf8 28 Q5 with an enduring attack.

27 Be6 c5 28 Rf7 Qxe2

Solution: 1 Bg5 Bxf3 2 Qd2 and the black queen is trapped. The suggestion by many readers was that Black could escape after 1 Bg5 Bxf3 2 Qd2 by means of 2... Qxd4. However, the discovery 3 Bb5+ still wins Black's queen. For example 3... Ncb4 4 Qxd4, when Black's knight is pinned, or 3... Bc6 (best) 4 Qxd4 Bxb5. However, White with queen against two minor pieces and a pawn will win easily.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qxe6+

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene,
Chess Correspondent

Black to play. This position is from the game Hazai - Sax, Budapest 1971.

Although White is a piece up, Black's two wonderful bishops out into the white position like a pair of scissors. How did Black continue?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qxe6+

Last week's winner: B Piper, Lower Edmonton, London.

1. Bg5 Bxf3 2. Qd2

3. Bb5+ 4. Qxd4

5. Bb5+ 6. Bxf3

7. Qd2 8. Bb5

9. Qd2 10. Bb5

11. Qd2 12. Bb5

13. Qd2 14. Bb5

15. Qd2 16. Bb5

17. Qd2 18. Bb5

19. Qd2 20. Bb5

21. Qd2 22. Bb5

23. Qd2 24. Bb5

25. Qd2 26. Bb5

27. Qd2 28. Bb5

29. Qd2 30. Bb5

31. Qd2 32. Bb5

33. Qd2 34. Bb5

35. Qd2 36. Bb5

37. Qd2 38. Bb5

39. Qd2 40. Bb5

41. Qd2 42. Bb5

43. Qd2 44. Bb5

45. Qd2 46. Bb5

47. Qd2 48. Bb5

49. Qd2 50. Bb5

51. Qd2 52. Bb5

53. Qd2 54. Bb5

55. Qd2 56. Bb5

57. Qd2 58. Bb5

59. Qd2 60. Bb5

61. Qd2 62. Bb5

63. Qd2 64. Bb5

65. Qd2 66. Bb5

67. Qd2 68. Bb5

69. Qd2 70. Bb5

71. Qd2 72. Bb5

73. Qd2 74. Bb5

75. Qd2 76. Bb5

77. Qd2 78. Bb5

79. Qd2 80. Bb5

81. Qd2 82. Bb5

83. Qd2 84. Bb5

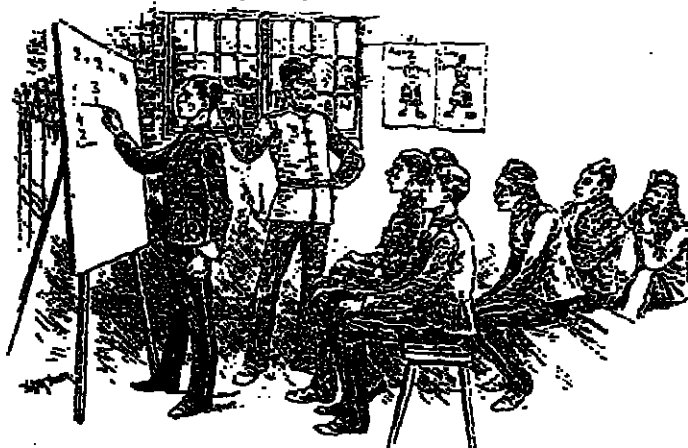
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 65, Weekend, The Times, 1 Remington Street, London E1 9DN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 20.



"In confidence Sir, I think the lady would get a better trade-in at Harrods"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by H. Rothwell of Barnston, Essex

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SLUB
a. An untidy woman
b. A lumpy yarn
c. To keep goal at lacrosse

TORRY
a. To tease a bull
b. To toast
c. A purple rock plant

URSCHLEIM
a. A Nordic Hell
b. Primal slime
c. A sweet Austrian wine

SNOEK
a. A rude gesture
b. A lazy layabout
c. A fish

Answers on page 18

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



The Cyberspace Thirty-Three winner devoted a web site to his allotment

"I WOULD devote my Web site to my allotment, which is Plot 29 on the Pakenham Close site in Cambridge," said Peter Marshall, "an amateur vegetable and flower grower" and a winner in last month's *Cyberspace Thirty-Three* competition.

"On my Web site I would include up-to-date photographs and information about what jobs are being done or what crops are being harvested. At present I am enjoying lovely mangel, summer cabbages, courgettes, potatoes, lettuce and carrots, to name but a few."

Mr Marshall will also use his site to promote the health benefits of running allotments, gardening tips and to give details of how to go about getting an allotment.

He is one of 12 readers who have each won 12-month Direct Connection subscriptions and the opportunity to run their own Web sites for all the world to visit and explore.

Darrel Lowry, of Annahilt, Co Down, Northern Ireland, came up with an equally knock-out idea for his spot in cyberspace. He wrote: "I am an anaesthetist in Belfast and my home page would be a site for people to discover what anaesthetists do — many people do not realise we are qualified doctors —

and offer information about operations, pain relief and possible complications. Although professionally I send people to sleep, my site would be exciting enough to keep people interested."

Mr Lowry added that his site will "serve as a home page for the Northern Ireland Group of Anaesthetists in Training, providing announcements and meeting details as well as links to related Internet sites." To cap it all, he hopes his page will become something of a tourist trap. "I would also like to use my home page to promote the Province, with Internet links to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Belfast Telegraph."

Richard Symonds of Bexleyheath, Kent, plans to use his Web site to allow others to experience "the whole misery of modern-day travel without having to leave the house." He wrote: "Research shows that the longest time which most families spend together is when travelling in the car. My Web site would use this feature and create the concept of the virtual journey. Whether by car, train or

bus, my site would have the theme of travel with no arrival.

"It would be for the whole family to use, accessing the site for an interminable virtual journey around the M25 or along the M4 or M3. We could recapture those authentic jams without the stress levels." He added another spin on the idea: "A package holiday site could be accessed with airport

delays, baggage-handlers' strikes and missed air-departure slots."

Our other winners, whose entries will be featured in the coming few weeks, are: Nigel Lamb of Edware, Middlesex; C. Emblem of Newmarket, Suffolk; Gavin Macgregor-Skinner of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey; Bola Adamolekun of Hampstead, northwest London; Stephen Cole of Farringdon, London; Alan Essex, of Leeds; Norman Payne of Liverpool; Bryan Goodridge of Birmingham; and Leslie King of Hove, Sussex.

Each will now try translating their dream sites into realities, with help from Direct Connection's in-house team if required, and the relevant addresses will be published as soon as sites open for visitors. Thank you to all who entered. If you were not a winner but would still like to get connected to the Internet, we have arranged a discount with Direct Connection which will save readers £35. Mention *The Times* and you can get a 12-month subscription for the price of ten months, with no set-up fee.

for just £135. Telephone 0800 0720000 for details.

The eternal search for an excellent pinball title for the PC goes on, despite a clutch of new releases. The best of the latest rather lean crop has to be *Maxis Pinball 97*, which runs on Windows 95. It has three tables — Mad Scientist, Alien Daze and Captain Hero.

Nudging is an essential part of gameplay, and there are plenty of multi-ball moments to keep you alert. Four can compete in rotation. One of the least inspiring is *Pro Pinball timesheet* for Windows 95. It claims to behave "just like the real thing", although if pinball was this bland it would never have caught on.

Still hungry for a truly interactive pinball, I also tested the 21st Century Pinball Construction Kit, which runs on Windows 3.1 and later versions. With 30 playing fields plus pins, jet bumpers, flashing lights and roll-over switches, one might think it promised the moon. But although the title suggests you start with a blank canvas to build on, it is actually just painting by predetermined numbers. You can only piece together, with slight variation, someone else's mediocre master designs.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3423: Cathexis from Dimitry

ENTRIES are formed from clue answers by converting the word to a string consisting of its numerical form, using A=1 to Z=26, jumbling the individual digits and reinterpreting them as another word for entry. Thus, DIMITRY (49135201825) has produced CATHEXIS (31208524919) whereas among other Listener setters tackling this idea, ADAM might have created MAN, BUFO could display ZEAL and SABRE would have been SURE, though had ALBAN produced BUNK, ASCOT might have let off STEAM. The twelve baffled clues lead to proper nouns, the entered forms for which, the compiler hopes, can be seen as strangely appropriate or amusing in relation to the answer. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended but does not contain some proper nouns. Dimitry wishes to thank HYPERION for his help.

ACROSS

- Modern composer's tune shocks one awfully (11)
- Beginning to indicate primitive Carib's core source of poison (5)
- Imperfection shown by 250 in 1000 (4)
- Small farm Scots bought around river (5)
- Rooks mouth younger looking tall (7)
- Positive termination? OK death, perhaps (7)
- Pyramids cut off thanks to rising water surging on coast (6)
- Car run over on motorway (3)
- Cure thirsty sailor (7)
- Gothamite held back by the tired Batman (8)
- Judge boss a high-flier? (5)
- Blue flower decorated with lilacs (6)
- One above all turning to cut grass for fodder (6)
- Drizzles around borders with Sweden (5)
- American abandoning strange item of bric-a-brac (5)
- Wood cutter disreputable person apprehended (6)
- A native acting dramatic character (7)
- Guard shaken up in BR rescue (8)
- Some like babies' look (5)
- Is gypsy woman collecting centrally rag and bones? (6)
- An amount of computer memory equipment holding parts of brain (7)

- Community zone accepted official (5)
- Name held by provider of bread? (6)
- Biting one got from mile (5)
- Returned work by English poet (5)
- to rent, sort of not super hotels (10)

DOWN

- Doctors drop estimates (9)
- Sun hat material lifts, exposes head, perhaps, to sunlight (9)
- Brownish-yellow grass in wet soil (7)
- What help audience, reacting as if dead? (8)
- Transport vehicle on railway (5)
- Regular publication unknown beforehand (6)
- Office claims lots of letters (8)
- Judges American is traitor (5)
- See college in night rioting securing doors (8)
- Fabulous bird turning corner (3)
- Poor's measure (5)
- Britannic prince cut down a fruit tree (6)
- Small airship showing a trace of movement in radar image (5)
- Got rid of old American fish in tin (6)
- He carries out extra beer (8)
- Shuckers! It would be wrong taking out half of middle (7)
- Greeting oriental native in part of high mountains (9)
- Like some fair people run without care (5)
- Divert a No.32, perhaps (5)
- Cobalt held in pious fear (6)
- Fleet, but limiting velocity (4)

Solution to No3420: Headingly 81 by Phil Brindall

The nine answers which have to be adjusted using something other than Roman numerals are as follows:

- Australia 1st innings
- Tibetan (beta) (2) + 58 = xi (60)
- England 1st innings
- Five rite (four + 5 = nine, 1 + 10 = XI)
- England 2nd innings
- ODs (0 + 1 = 1)
- mud (mu (40) + 20 = xi (60), D + 13 = DXIII)
- onion (1 + 18 = XIX, 0 + 11 = 11)
- pictas (pi eta (88) + 2 = koppa (90))
- Australia 2nd innings
- etat (eta (8) + 34 = mu beta (42))
- Anura (nu (50) + 10 = xi (60))
- tiki (1 + 9 = 10, 1 + 9 = X)

The winner is R.Teuton of Stockcross, Berkshire. The five runners-up are: J. Leach of London; M. and N. Hay; Sheila Perkins of Rushden, Northants; D.Milne of Shepton Mallet; Nigel Gavin of Sevenoaks, Kent.

No 1174

ACROSS

- Entertainment; crossroads (6)
- Shock, fear (6)
- Unwell (4)
- S Africa capital (8)
- By that very fact (4,5)
- Relative; pawnbroker (5)
- Rapture (5)
- Shrink in fear (5)
- Approximate (9)
- Abandoned (8)
- Style of walking (4)
- Blush (6)
- Author (6)

DOWN

- Of the universe (6)
- Human-powered toad (8)
- Brownish tone (eg in old photo) (4)
- Turned up (nose) (9)
- (Distinctive) attire (4)
- Hypnotic state (6)
- Construct; copact (9)
- Incisive; crunch (5)
- Pretender (to title) (8)
- Grant; consult (6)
- Rankle (6)
- Prolong (library loan); start again (5)
- Poke (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1173

- 4 Fable 7 Scavenger 8 Bump 9 Regiment
- early 13 Miller 14 Retain 15 Reggae 16 Gumfight
- and 20 Hate mail 21 Tryst
- N: 1 Assume 2 Tamper 3 Betray 4 Feminine 5 Blue
- 6 Easter 11 Autonomy 12 Twilight 14 Ragout
- 17 Guffaw 17 Arnold

ENTRIES TO NO 1174

ACROSS: 4 Fable 7 Scavenger 8 Bump 9 Regiment

early 13 Miller 14 Retain 15 Reggae 16 Gumfight

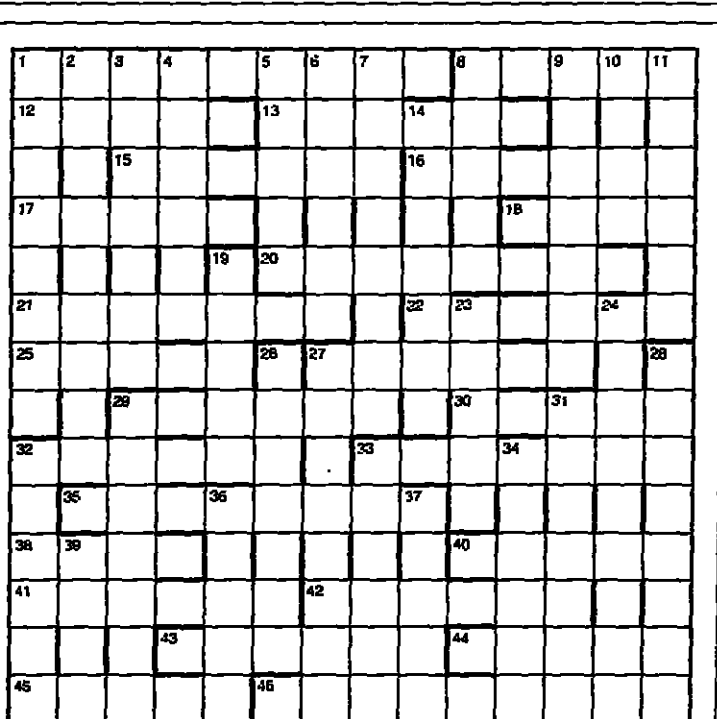
and 20 Hate mail 21 Tryst

N: 1 Assume 2 Tamper 3 Betray 4 Feminine 5 Blue

6 Easter 11 Autonomy 12 Twilight 14 Ragout

17 Guffaw 17 Arnold

ENTRIES TO NO 1174



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3423

in association with Waterstone's

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The

Listener Crossword No 3423, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire

AL3 6HE, by Thursday, August 28.

WATERSTONE'S

The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.

Waterstone's first opened a bookshop in 1982 and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100+ branches has at least 30,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signal First Editions, 01225 448996. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.

